

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 9, 2014

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UFO rescue

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Page 2



Panto visit

Cast calls in with cash for hospice

Page 4



Appeal boost

Cyclists show their support for Bethan

Page 10



Ironworks expanding to create more jobs

A GROWING Oswestry firm is planning to expand its workforce even further and wants action to bring more businesses to the area.

The British Ironwork Centre has increased its workforce to nearly 50 within the last few years and is looking to take on a further 10 within the first quarter of this year with more expansion planned later.

Bosses have called on companies within the county to work together to put together a "welcome package" to attract further business to Shropshire.

The firm met Job Centre bosses in Oswestry yesterday (Wednesday) to discuss their plans.

Company managing director Clive Knowles said the firm had thrived after moving to Oswestry 12 years ago and added that more could be done to bring further businesses into the area.

He said: "Oswestry has so much to offer other businesses outside of the borough.

"Perhaps we could use our resources to entice growing business to come to Shropshire, where they, undoubtedly will continue to flourish. I feel we should be approaching our most successful companies to investigate and ultimately present recommendations to the local authority."

● Spoons - See Page 3

Rail survey on agenda

BUSINESSES in Welshpool could benefit from enhanced services on the Cambrian Railway.

Local businesses have been invited to a meeting at 1pm today (Thursday) at the Dragon Works, Henfaes Lane in Welshpool, to hear about the results of a survey by the Shrewsbury to Abergystwyth Rail Liaison Committee.

The meeting will also provide local businesses with the chance to hear about how improved services could support them and the economy locally.

PROTESTERS WIN ESTATE SIZE FIGHT

MORDA residents have won a planning battle to scale down the size of a proposed housing estate in the village.

Plans to build 85 new homes in the village on the outskirts of Oswestry have been scaled back by more than 20 houses after objections from residents living alongside the development.

David Wilson Homes has now submitted a full planning application to Shropshire Council to build 64 new homes on the land, which is next to Morda Bank, Oswestry.

by Graham Breeze

London 2012 legacy to live on in town

OSWESTRY'S very own Olympic legacy will carry on next year through the staging of a second community games.

Councillors have given their backing for Oswestry Community Games to be held in 2014 after the success of the inaugural event in September when more than 400 people took part.

The games were organised to celebrate the legacy of the London Olympics and Paralympics of 2012.

Organiser Clive Knight, in a report to councillors summarising the event, said: "The event went very well with around 400 to 500 taking part over the weekend which was helped with glorious weather throughout.

"The event took six weeks to deliver from start to finish and there were over 50 volunteers involved in key positions that I, as organiser, was communicating with throughout this timescale.

"The event became a mix of private, public and voluntary sector organisations working closely together to successfully deliver this event.

"Our interpretation of celebrating the legacy of the Olympics and Paralympics of 2012 was to create an inclusive weekend event maximising use of the park's sport facilities of tennis, bowls and mini golf, and bring local sports clubs and organisations into the park to showcase their sport, provide have-a-go sessions, promote themselves and hopefully gain new members."

The company has also pledged to keep half of the 7.7-acre site undeveloped as public open space.

The company presented its preliminary plans at a public exhibition in September.

Following this and a period of consultation with local residents, the company revised its plans, reducing the number of homes proposed from 85 to 64 and including more open space.

It is now hoping to gain planning permission by Easter.

Jon Rowson, planning manager at David Wilson Homes Mercia, said: "Following a review of the community feedback about our preliminary plans, we significantly reduced the number of homes proposed, which has resulted in a more spacious development, with additional landscaping, whilst also reducing the traffic to the site.

"The site has been identified as suitable to deliver much-needed new homes in Oswestry.

Propose

"Importantly, our plans only propose to develop approximately half of the site.

"This will ensure the physical separation between Morda and Oswestry is safeguarded and retained in perpetuity."

The development, which is close to local shops and services, would include a mix of homes including two, three and four bedroom houses, of which seven would be made available as affordable homes.

Developers have pledged to retain footpaths through the site and carry out landscaping work around the site "to ensure the leafy character of the area is respected and enhanced".

Access to the site would be through a road off Morda Bank, and original site features, such as the stone boundary wall next to Morda Bank, will be retained.

The application is now being considered by Shropshire Council and further consultation is taking place.

A decision is expected to be made by the middle of March.

Developers say that the homes will be suitable for families and first time buyers, and the mix of housing will create a balanced community.

Author books spot at event



Jess Williams from Booka Book Shop in Oswestry gets ready for Oswestry LitFest.

CHILDREN'S author, screenwriter and co-scripter of London 2012 Olympics opening ceremony, Frank Cottrell Boyce, will visit Oswestry later this month to formally launch this year's Oswestry LitFest in his role as Festival Patron.

He will be talking about his children's novels, early TV scriptwriting career and successful screenplays and collaborations with movie directors Danny Boyle and Michael Winterbottom.

Oswestry LitFest organisers also promise

Business growth is slowing – Chamber

BUSINESS growth across Mid Wales stalled in the final quarter of 2013, according to the Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce's quarterly economic survey.

The number of businesses who maintained or increased UK-based sales dropped from 77 per cent in the third quarter of 2013 to 74 per cent, while international exports remained at 78 per cent.

Advanced order-books for those trading in the UK did remain a little healthier, however, with 77 per cent of business maintaining or increasing orders, up from 72 per cent last quarter.

Recruitment also fell across the region, with 93 per cent of businesses which did try to recruit reporting a real difficulty finding staff with the right skills.

The survey monitors the performance of businesses in Mid Wales and acts as a barometer for the strength of the Welsh economy.

Graham Morgan, director of the Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce, said: "The results are a setback when compared to other parts of Wales, particularly after a promising set of figures released in the last quarter for Powys & Ceredigion.

"It is not entirely unexpected. Mid Wales is seeing a stream of young people moving to pursue jobs over the border."

Minister to chair talks

SECRETARY of State for Wales, David Jones was hosting a round table meeting with Powys and Ceredigion business leaders to mark the one year anniversary of the Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce today (Thursday).

Mr Jones will meet with Graham Morgan, director of the South and Mid Wales Chambers of Commerce, and chamber members at the meeting.

He will then visit Powys Business of the Year, Quatrix in Newtown and CastAlum in Welshpool.

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NEWS**CONTENTS**

Comment	6
Letters	7
Welshpool	10, 11
Nostalgia	20
Property	27-38
Wildside	55
Arts	56
Gig Guide	57
Sport	62-64

CONTACT US**Editor: Caroline Jones**

Tel: 01952 241416 E-mail: caroline.jones@shropshirestar.co.uk

Associate Editor: Graham Breeze

Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Sport: Dave Cooper

Tel: 01952 241474 E-mail: dave.cooper@shropshirestar.co.uk

Oswestry and Welshpool photographic

Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Advertising:**Advertisement Manager: David Lee-Birch**

Tel: 01691 668092 E-mail: dlee-birch@shropshirestar.co.uk

Marcus Evans

Tel: 01691 668095 E-mail: marcus.evans@shropshirestar.co.uk

Christina Cookson

Tel: 01691 668089 E-mail: christina.cookson@shropshirestar.co.uk

Welshpool Advertising:**Beverley Thompson**

Tel: 01691 668092 E-mail: beverley.thompson@shropshirestar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones

Tel: 01902 319537 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

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Golf clubs' windfall after VAT ruling over green fees

GOLF clubs in the area are set for a welcome cash handout following a landmark judgement in the European Courts.

The Court of Justice of the European Union has ruled that VAT on green fees at British private members' golf clubs has been incorrectly applied and the money is to be repaid bringing a welcome boost to club coffers.

This week local clubs welcomed the news but were reluctant to forecast how much money is coming their way, while nationally clubs were talking in six figure sums.

HMRC has enforced VAT on green fees paid by visitors at golf clubs across the UK for years.

Now the ruling that the fees should be VAT-exempt in the UK, as they are across Europe, opens the floodgates for reclaims by thousands of clubs.

In 2011 the first tier tax tribunal in the UK ruled that green fees at Bridport & West Dorset Golf Club, which had previously been subject to VAT, should be exempt, as they did not represent "additional income" for the club.

Appeals

This was set to mean that every private members' golf club could claim for a VAT refund going back at least four years.

Following appeals the final decision has now been reached by the European Court of Justice and Bridport are expecting over £140,000.

The issue in dispute was whether or not green fees charged to visitors should be treated as exempt from VAT," said Paul Stewart, director of KPMG, who have been fighting the charges on behalf of clubs such as Llanyrnnech, Welshpool and Oswestry.

Due to the significant volume of claims made, we have contacted HMRC with a view to agreeing a centralised approach for claims

by Graham Breeze

processing, to ensure that the matter is dealt with efficiently and that all taxpayers are treated similarly."

Llanyrnnech Golf Club's course manager Howard Jones welcomed the verdict.

"Procedures for establishing the level of refunds will be long and protracted," he said.

"At this stage we have no idea as to the value of our refund or the timescale, though there is no doubt that the judgement will be beneficial to the club and its members."

Welshpool Golf Club chairman John Wood also expressed his delight at the decision.

"KPMG has been working on our behalf on this very complex issue and the judgement is really good news for us at a time when we are looking to invest in improvements. But it is early days - we don't know how much or when we will receive the refund."

Welcoming the news Oswestry Golf Club secretary John Evans warned of a sting in the tail.

"Whereas clubs owned by a company or individual can reclaim all VAT, members' clubs can only reclaim a proportion of VAT."

"When the new rules come into force that partial recovery rate will reduce substantially and so increase the amount of VAT that cannot be recovered from HMRC. There is a welcome net benefit, but it does have a notable sting in the tail."

It's sew easy to tackle those UFOs

**Professional dressmaker Sarah Thursfield is starting dressmaking classes at Llanyrnnech Village Hall.**

A DRESSMAKING expert is coming to the aid of people with a cupboard full of "UFOs".

The UFOs Sarah Thursfield, of Llanyrnnech, near Oswestry, deals with are not of the alien kind but of the Un-Finished Objects variety.

Mrs Thursfield says many people have items that they have never quite got around to completing.

She is launching a new dressmaking class to help people finish off those objects or to simply allow them to give

dressmaking a try. She said: "UFOs is a well-used phrase in dressmaking."

"Many people have something they have started but not quite finished."

She added: "The classes I hold are open classes and are open to people of all experience and skill and I will help people finish off their work or simply introduce them to dressmaking. The class has been running for five years and we have made christening robes, animal costumes and Tudor dresses as well as more conventional clothes."

Mrs Thursfield added that she is hoping to publish a revision of a book she published in 2001, called The Medieval Tailor's Assistant, about her research of dressmaking and sewing techniques used in years gone by.

Evening classes will start on January 22 at 7.30pm with daytime classes beginning on January 23 at 11am.

All are held at Llanyrnnech Village Hall.

For details call (01691) 839286 or visit **www.sarahthursfield.com**



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NEWS

Education expert in university post move



Dr Jayne Mitchell

A WELSHPOOL woman has been appointed deputy vice-chancellor for Lincoln's Bishop Grosseteste University.

Dr Jayne Mitchell moves from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education where she is director of research, development and partnerships, to the university and will have responsibility for academic affairs.

At QAA, she was responsible for ensuring standards and reference points used by QAA, higher education providers and those with an interest in higher education.

Previously, she was associate dean at Staffordshire University. She will begin her role at BGU in March.

Dr Mitchell said: "I am thrilled to be joining the team at Bishop Grosseteste University.

"It is a university with a terrific heritage and exciting plans for the future. I look forward to playing a part in shaping that future direction."

Reverend Professor Peter Neil, vice-chancellor of Bishop Grosseteste University, said he looked forward to her joining the team.

Dr Mitchell has a PhD in physical activity epidemiology from the University of Exeter and a Masters in public health from the University of Birmingham.

She has recently completed her year as captain of Welshpool Golf Club ladies section.

Up to 120 jobs in jeopardy as police try to cut £11.5m

DYFED-Powys Police could cut up to 120 jobs over the next three years as the force tries to reduce its budget by £11.5 million.

The cuts will be made in the civilian workforce, which currently has 823 staff. Today the police force pledged to maintain and improve front line policing in mid Wales and to keep redundancies to a minimum, losing posts through natural wastage.

The Public First restructuring will include a reshaping of professional support services. Chief Constable Simon Prince and Police and Crime Commissioner Christopher Salmon, who admit 118 jobs could go, say they are determined that redundancies will be minimised and that the public will benefit from an improved police service.

by Graham Breeze

Montgomeryshire MP, Glyn Davies, said he was not surprised by the announcement as all public services were having to cut their budgets. He said he would be meeting with Mr Salmon to discuss the rationale behind Public First.

"The Dyfed Powys force covers a huge area and it is vitally important to ensure front line services are not affected," he said. Staff and managers have been informed of the proposals which include new employment terms and conditions for all support staff, a simpler management structure and fewer departments.

Staff

All staff are currently employed by the Police Commissioner but from April all but 16 will be employed by the Chief Constable. Mr Prince said: "We seek to put the right people with the right skills in the right jobs."

Formal consultation has begun with trade union Unison on the proposed civilian structure and notice has been issued under Section 188 Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Of the possible post losses, about 38 will come through not filling vacancies. Voluntary redundancy applications will be considered and police staff are being encouraged to apply for police officer and PCSO roles.

That will leave about 55 redundancies. Mr Prince said: "I intend to reduce the number of redundancies to a minimum and no PCSOs will face redundancy."

Bus plea to fans

ORGANISERS of an Oswestry bus service for Shrewsbury Town fans have asked supporters to book in advance.

The service leaves Park Gates in Oswestry at 1.15pm for Saturday games and 6.15pm for midweek games, passing through several locations including West Felton, Nesscliffe and Montford Bridge.

To book, contact Chris Smith on (01952) 604742, Colin Mansell on 07962 2206907 or Alan Pugh on 07732 358003.

Cancer site appeal half way to target

A FUNDING appeal for a new bone cancer centre in Oswestry is more than half way to its target amount, delighted health chiefs have revealed.

The Oswestry Bone Cancer Appeal has now raised over £195,000 in a 12 month period, with a further £75,000 in pledges, meaning it is over half way to its target.

The centre will be built in the grounds of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital this year.

The new Bone Cancer Centre will be located adjacent to the new main entrance at the specialist hospital.

The area of land has been marked out ready for both the new tumour unit and the adjacent new operating theatres.

Appeal director, Gwilym Owen OBE, said: "My thanks go to all those involved in fundraising so far towards the new £2 million Bone Cancer Centre."

"In addition to the funds in the bank so far, we have a further £75,000 in pledges."

"Whilst we have already come a long way in reaching our appeal target of £500,000, we still need more support and fundraising events."

"So far we have 20 runners signed up for the 2014 Virgin London Marathon, with 10 places remaining, if any one would like to sign up."

"This new combined development of theatres and the dedicated bone cancer centre in 2014 will really improve facilities for patients."

Sculpture in need of spoons



Appealing spoons are, back, from left, Rachel Wildman, Craig Fitton and Clive Knowles with, front, Alfie Bradley.

A SHORTAGE of spoons is threatening the creation of a new piece of art for one of Britain's best known illusionists.

Uri Geller, famous for his spoon bending feats, has commissioned a gorilla, sculpted from his trademark spoons from the Shropshire-based British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry.

But the company has realised that it will need twice as many spoons as it first estimated to make the gorilla and has renewed its appeal for help from the public.

Donations from as far as New York and Amsterdam as well as from across the county have been arriving at a Shropshire firm.

Clive Knowles, managing director of the British Ironwork Centre, said today that another 5,000 spoons were needed to finish off the 12 foot sized gorilla statue for the colourful illusionist.

Mr Geller says he will fly to Oswestry to pick the gorilla up and he will take it back to his Berkshire mansion in a cage hanging from a helicopter in the style of King Kong.

Mr Knowles said: "We really want to finish the gorilla in plenty of time, but we desperately need more spoons, of all shapes and sizes."

The entertainer commissioned the British Ironwork Centre to create the huge sculpture to sit in the garden of his luxury mansion.

Mr Geller opens up his property to sick children as part of his charitable work. He commissioned the work after meeting Mr Knowles to discuss the creation of new lighting for his garden.

£8,000 of golf clubs are stolen

EQUIPMENT worth £8,000 was stolen when raiders smashed their way into Oswestry Golf Club.

The burglars stole a large number of golf clubs from the premises at Aston Park just off the A5 at Queens Head before making off across fields in a vehicle.

Today West Mercia Police appealed for help in tracing the thieves.

Officers said they believed two men were involved in the break-in between 6.30pm and 6.50pm on New Year's Eve.

Police spokesman, Richard Ewels, said: "The two men stole 175 litres of red diesel from a tank at the golf club before breaking into the club house by smashing a window in a door."

"They stole various makes of golf clubs worth about £8,000 before driving off in a vehicle across an adjoining field."

Anyone who saw suspicious activity in the area or who has information about the identity of the thieves should contact Oswestry police station on the 101 number or use the Crimestoppers number, 0800 555111.

Castle area open all day

CHIRK Castle estate is open for anyone who fancies chasing away the winter blues with a bracing walk.

Throughout the winter the grounds surrounding the castle will be open from 7am to dusk or 7pm.

From February 1 the tea rooms, gardens, tower and shop will also be open and the castle opens up for the annual snowdrop walks.

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NEWS

Church eyes old cinema site in a bid to expand

A CHURCH in Oswestry could move into an old cinema in the town, with a 300-seat auditorium for the congregation and the community.

Hope Church, formerly Carreg Llwyd, is carrying out a feasibility study into the opportunities and the potential costs of such a move which leaders say would enable it to expand its activities to the whole of Oswestry.

It was set up in Laburnum Drive as a mission church to the people living on Carreg Llwyd estate in 1964 and celebrates its golden jubilee in June this year. But the church is now attended by people from a much wider area.

Pastor, Derek Hughes said today that the intention was to create a 300-seater auditorium for church meetings and functions, with other rooms and facilities for a variety of community activities.

"We see this as a significant opportunity that fits in with the church's vision to serve a wider community than it does at present," he said. The Old Regal Cinema

by Sue Austin

in Leg Street, is on the market with Celt Rowlands & Co with the asking price of £475,000.

It closed in 1994. A group of residents, led by Mr Chas Nicholson, wants to see the building run by a community interest company to transform it into a venue for theatre and opera, cinema, conferences, music recitals, exhibitions and a space for education and community groups.

They say their vision would boost the local economy, regenerate the town centre, enhance the night-time economy and reduce the need for people to travel elsewhere for entertainment.

Woman admits tax claims

A 36-YEAR-old woman has pleaded guilty to nine charges of false tax repayment claims from January to June 2013. Joanne Lloyd, of Old Mill Avenue, Morda, appeared at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Friday. The case was adjourned for sentence to the week beginning January 27.

Panto stars' hospice donation



Panto stars delivering the cheque for £5,135.90 to Hope House.

A CHILDREN'S hospice is thousands of pounds better off thanks to the success of an annual pantomime.

Stars from Theatre Severn's pantomime in Shrewsbury visited Hope House Children's Hospice in Morda to hand over a cheque for more than £5,000 to staff.

The cash was raised at the theatre before and after performances of this year's per-

formances of *Sleeping Beauty*. Cast members held meet and greet sessions with the public before the performances and held collecting buckets with all the cash going to Hope House.

Theatre marketing officer Pip Bayley said: "This is the third time we have done it and once again we have broken our record. We are all delighted to have done it again."

Inquest opens on bridge fall woman

A WOMAN whose body was found beneath a road bridge on a busy road was from Oswestry, a coroner has confirmed.

An inquest on 48-year-old Sarah Maria Jones, of Glentworth Avenue, was opened and adjourned on Friday by John Gittins, coroner for North Wales (East and Central).

Mr Gittins said a post mortem examination had been conducted and the cause of death was given as multiple major injuries.

He said the inquest would be reopened at a later date.

Emergency services were called to the A483 just north of Chirk on the afternoon of December 30 after reports a woman had fallen from a road bridge.

Police say they don't believe there are any suspicious circumstances.

The incident closed a stretch of the A483 between Chirk and Ruabon for several hours while investigations were carried out.

Crash blocks road

A BUSY road in Oswestry was blocked for half an hour following a two-car crash. The A5 between the Mile End roundabout and the Whittington Road roundabout on the outskirts of Oswestry was blocked at 3pm on Sunday.

KEEPING OSWESTRY ALIVE

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

Thank you to all our readers and advertisers who have supported the Oswestry & Border Chronicle Keeping Oswestry Alive Campaign. Launched in August 2013 the Oswestry Chronicle launched the campaign to provide a network of life saving defibrillators located in strategic areas across Oswestry.



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Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Police reopen station after listening to public opinion

A POLICE station which was controversially closed to the public before a U-turn by bosses will remain open at all times while manned, it has been confirmed.

Dyfed-Powys Police said that as long as officers are inside Welshpool Police Station they will answer any calls from members of the public.

The force closed the station to the public in 2012 and instead opened a temporary station in the town's Tesco car park twice a week.

The move was so controversial with the public that the force reversed the decision and it has confirmed this will remain the case.

by Andrew Morris

Man hurt in fall onto roof

A 68-YEAR-old man was rushed to hospital with a hip injury after slipping and falling on to a garage roof.

The man fell at a house in Windsor Road in Oswestry shortly before 1.20pm on Sunday and was taken by ambulance to hospital for treatment.

A spokesman for West Midlands Ambulance Service said the man was taken to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital with a hip injury.

A spokeswoman for Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service said: "On arrival, crews found a 68-year-old man on the flat roof of a garage and it appeared he may have slipped."

"We provided assistance to paramedics by using the aerial ladder platform to attend to the man and assist him to the ground."

"He was then treated at the scene and then taken to hospital via ambulance."

"The crews were at the scene for more than an hour as it was quite an operation."

Museum joins orchestra ranks



Oswestry School double bass player Richard Walsh.

A YOUNG musician from Oswestry is to join the National Youth Orchestra of Wales on its 2014 concert series.

Richard Walsh, from Oswestry School, will join the orchestra as a double bass player, an instrument he only took up seven months ago.

The 11-year-old is an accomplished cello player and despite his young age is already of Grade 8 standard.

Julian Cattley, director of music at the school, said Richard had to audition for the Youth Orchestra before being offered a place in their 2014 Concert Series.

He said: "The audition performance included two contrasting pieces, pre-prepared orchestral extracts, sight reading, and scales and arpeggios."

The series includes performances at St Asaph Cathedral, St David's Hall, Cardiff and in Gateshead.

He added: "This is a wonderful opportunity for Richard and a great achievement as he only started playing the double bass in May of this year having previously been a cellist."

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FEATURES AND COMMENT

01691 668094



ANYONE who gets the better of the dreaded tax man is to be congratulated, so the news this week that golf clubs across the country have done just that is amazing.

Judges sitting at a Court of Justice of the European Union have ruled that VAT on green fees at British private members' golf clubs has been incorrectly applied and the money is to be repaid.

The opens the floodgates for refunds by thousands of clubs.

Clubs are now looking at substantial handouts with amounts due depending of course on the popularity of their courses.

One Scottish club this week claimed it is owed over £140,000.

Our local clubs are being more conservative and are reluctant to forecast how much cash is coming their way.

But no matter how much the refund turns out to be it will be a welcome boost to club bank balances which have been badly hit over the last few years due to the economic downturn.

WHAT really wound me up this week was news that a leading sex educationalist says it's bad for a child to be made to give an elderly relative a kiss.

Lucy Emmerson, co-ordinator of the Sex Education Forum, says it may blur the boundaries of what is acceptable when it comes to physical contact. What kind of an upbringing did she have? Is this woman for real? If anyone back this theory the World will have finally gone completely mad.

Getting a reluctant child to give an elderly relative a kiss often requires some gentle persuasion. But parents who force their sons and daughters to give granny a peck on the cheek may be doing them harm.

For instead of helping a child learn about showing affection, it may blur the boundaries of what is acceptable when it comes to physical contact, according to Ms Emmerson.

She even claims that encouraging a youngster to blow a kiss, high-five or wave to a relative instead will help them avoid future sexual exploitation.

Children need to learn from the start about the importance of consent and that 'their bodies are their own', she says.

Ms Emmerson is trying to take any kind of human feeling and kindness out of the way we bring up children and that's a travesty.

A child will face a very difficult time as a teenager and even as an adult if not taught through the family connection how to show appropriate affection.

Surely there is all the difference in the world between self-consciously – or reluctantly kissing an uncle or aunt on the cheek and accepting unwanted sexual advances from those with evil on their mind.

Who gives this kind people these jobs?

Funeral director Eddie has no plans to retire



Eddie Francis from E.J Francis Funeral Services in Forden.



Eddie's first car a Ford Cortina which he used for the job.

by Sue Austin

HE has done the same job for more than half a century – and Eddie Francis admits he simply doesn't want to retire.

Mr Francis says his profession as a funeral director is a labour of love without which he would be lost, despite still shedding tears over the death of a baby.

He is now approaching his 77th birthday and started out in the profession when he was just 16.

But he continues to play a key role at the family business, E.J Francis of Forden, near Welshpool and is showing no signs of slowing down yet.

He took over the business in 1974 when his uncle, Ted Roberts, retired and arranges up to four funerals a week with the help of his daughter, Yvonne, and son Glyn.

Holiday

Mr Francis, who says he works 365 days a year and answers the phone at all hours, said: "I never have a holiday and I am always available. I love meeting people and I love my job."

"Everyone wants to do their best for their loved one and if I can help them do that then I am happy."

Mr Francis admitted that sometimes it is difficult to remain professional, particularly over the death of a young person.

"The death of a baby always upsets me, even now. The worst is when you have to close the coffin. Tears always roll down my face."

But he said that funerals of older people should be a celebration of their life.

Mr Francis has fond memories of his early days in the trade and being tutored by his uncle, but said funeral



Eddie making a coffin in the mid 1990s.

als had changed considerably since he started out.

He said: "I lived in Much Wenlock, one of eight children. My mother died when I was three and we were brought up by my dad."

"I moved to Forden to live with my aunt and uncle and, at the age of 16, started to work with my uncle, Ted Roberts."

"He was a wheelwright and a wonderful carpenter and, as many carpenters did at the time, he was also the village undertaker."

Under his uncle's tuition Mr Francis learned how to work with wood and also began helping out with funerals.

"He was a wonderful man and he

taught me so much. Even now I can make a coffin, if someone wants a bespoke one. It's not something many funeral directors can do these days."

He admitted that some of the things he witnessed as a teenager were harrowing.

Music

"I saw the results of train crashes and suicides and they were not nice for a youngster to see. But I think I took it in my stride."

"There were no chapels of rest in those days so the person who had died remained at the house or in the hospital until the funeral. And there were no crematoriums. Everyone was buried."



Eddie in his early 20s.

"The only music played was hymns, whereas today, particularly in the crematorium, all kinds of music can be played. I think this is lovely, it is much more personal."

"When I took over the business I had a little Mini van to start with and I remember that the first funeral I did alone, for a Mr Hughes from the village, cost just £280 for everything."

His unwillingness to retire is welcomed by many, who have told the undertaker not to step down until he has done their funeral.

And as for his own funeral, when it comes, Mr Francis's wish is to be carried on his hand-pulled, bier that has pride of place in his funeral parlour.

CHART TOPPERS RAY SPILLER

Over 50 years ago The Music Charts began and we look back at the charts on this week, nine, 19, 29, 39 and 49 years ago

NINE YEARS AGO... 2005

X Factor winner Steve Brookstein had just one week at number one with *Against All Odds*. Eight million people voted for Steve to win X Fac but the real winner was BT.

This song had already been a chart-topper for Westlife (with Mariah Carey) in 2000 and Phil Collins in 1984. Steve's version entered the charts at number two but when Simon Cowell announced that all proceeds would go to the Tsunami appeal it hit the top spot. Steve's success was fleeting though, and he has since been very vocal about his disdain for Cowell about his treatment following his X Factor victory.

NINETEEN YEARS AGO... 1995

Between Christmas Day 1994 and the end of March 1995 just three records held the top spot.

They were Celine Dion's *Think Twice*, Cotton Eye Joe from Rednex and East 17's *Stay Another Day*. This was East 17's only number one hit although it held the top spot for five weeks including Christmas Day.

TWENTY NINE YEARS AGO... 1985

All-star charity singles have done well over the years. None more so than Band Aid with *Do They Know It's Christmas*. Inspired by Bob Geldof, he

assembled a staggering line-up of talent including Bono, Sting and George Michael. At the time, the record became the biggest selling single of all time with sales of more than 3.5 million. The record held the top spot for five weeks but only reached number 13 in America.

THIRTY NINE YEARS AGO... 1975

Rock'n'roll stars Mud held the number one slot for four weeks with *Lonely This Christmas*. Although it was a success, we think this is one of the most depressing Christmas records of all time. However, the 70s was a great decade for Mud with no less than 11 records in the top 10, three of them number ones.

FORTY NINE YEARS AGO... 1965

The Beatles had their sixth consecutive number one when *I Feel Fine* became the Christmas number one in 1964. It held the top spot for five weeks. This was also their fourth number one of the year.

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LETTERS

KiP sees surge in number of homeless

THE Salvation Army KiP Project has seen unprecedented number of homeless people this year.

We could write endlessly about the number, but this would not show the desperate circumstances faced by those who contact front-line services day after day.

In the past year, demand for assistance has stretched our humble resources to the limit. We could not respond at all, were it not for a number of reinforcements.

Our service and those we serve continue to be deeply grateful for the tireless work of Maninplace. It provides and staffs the emergency accommodation, and every night ensures dozens of people will not be sleeping rough on the streets of Telford.

Our team of KiP volunteers have leapt in again with love and a desire to help. I am personally indebted to each one. Without this continuous, selfless service we simply could not do what we do.

The support we receive from the public continues in a very special way.

We have received all sorts at the door: tins of food, biscuits, bags of clothes, toiletries and the like. These are given by kind folk who just drop in, most do not even want to leave a name.

We have also been supported by schools, clubs, churches, supermarkets and businesses, with all kinds of donations over the year.

The largest donation was from Paul Riley and family, who hosted a magnificent summer garden party and raised a staggering sum, well in excess of £10,000. This has enabled us to set-up our Help-in-Hand project, which assists homeless people in a practical way with things we often take for granted and help them into accommodation.

Your efforts mean KiP keeps going, meeting the needs of the homeless in our town. We have seen some real success stories again this year and you have made this happen through your generosity.

KiP cannot exist without your support. You are all amazing and we are glad to have you all partnering with us. What can be said but - 'thank you all'.

We wish you a prosperous new year.

STEVE WATKINS
(lead worker)
The Salvation
Army KiP Project

Help to save lives by giving blood

I'M sure that after all that turkey and trifle, your readers are thinking about their New Year's resolutions for 2014.

Instead of giving something up, we're asking them to give blood.

Donating blood saves lives. It's an easy resolution to keep and is easy to get started.

During 2013, blood donors across England and North Wales helped save and transform the lives of hundreds of thousands of patients within the NHS

and we are grateful to each and every one of them for taking the time to donate.

We're looking forward to welcoming them again into our donation sessions in 2014 as they continue to save lives.

But there will be lots of your readers who haven't donated before, or haven't done so for a while, and we're asking them to come forward and register as a blood donor.

Becoming a blood donor is easy.

All people need to do is visit www.blood.co.uk, register and book an appointment at a local session.

So go on, please encourage your readers to make this important resolution this year. To save lives as a blood donor.

JON LATHAM
Assistant Director
of Marketing
NHS Blood and Transplant

Children's charity in need of support

JUST before Christmas at a time that many of us were spending time with our families and loved ones, I spent a few days in the Philippines seeing the work that UNICEF is doing to help children and their families affected by Typhoon Haiyan.

It's now almost six weeks since the Typhoon ripped through parts of the Philippines. Homes, schools and hospitals were flattened, and lives turned upside down.

Whenever I have visited communities affected by natural disasters, I am always struck by people's spirit and ability to carry on with life, often in the most desperate of conditions. The Philippines is no different.

I was even able to attend a children's Christmas party at a school that was completely demolished by the typhoon. There were Christmas carols, songs, play and smiles in the two big UNICEF tents that now act as school buildings.

I was struck by the resilient spirit of the survivors of the typhoon and their determination to rebuild their lives. But they cannot do it alone and that is why UNICEF is on the ground, and will continue to work tirelessly into the New Year. And we will be there for the long term to help recovery and reconstruction.

The response from the UK public has been incredible, with thousands of donations reaching us as soon as people saw the impact of the storm.

But part of the reason we are able to respond so quickly is thanks to our UNICEF UK Children's Emergency Fund. As soon as a humanitarian response is needed, we use the fund to help ensure that children in distress can be assisted.

This fund allows UNICEF to be there for children caught in emergencies, responding rapidly wherever disaster strikes. This is true of ongoing emergencies such as Syria, or those which do not receive ample aid, such as the conflict in the Central African Republic which has displaced hundreds of thousands.

So as you look forward to the year I'd urge you to donate to UNICEF to allow us to continue working for children in times of disaster.

To donate please visit www.unicef.org.uk/UNICEF-Work/Emergencies-Childrens-Emergency-Fund/
DAVID BULL,
UNICEF UK

Can you solve our picture mystery?



Help! This photo is in our archive with the caption: "1920 poster promoting Oswestry removal firm up for auction." But as you can see for yourself, it doesn't appear to be a poster, nor does it appear to be a removal firm. But it could perhaps be another firm in Oswestry. Any ideas? Drop us a line if you can solve the riddle.

We should not destroy our nature

A VET is concerned people are expressing views on TB in cattle without knowledge.

He makes some factual points. A vaccinated animal is indistinguishable, as far as the TB test is concerned, from an infected animal. So is a vaccinated person.

EU law does not permit vaccination of cattle against TB. It will take a long while to assess the effectiveness of the pilot culls. Those in charge often apply the correct solution only after trying incorrect ones. This costs time and money.

As for the EU and its control, the public will have a view on that if and when a referendum is permitted.

For now, we have responsibility to care for nature, not destroy it.

PETER KEEN
Oswestry

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Death of Biggs given too much coverage

WAS it really necessary to give so much coverage to the death of Ronald Biggs?

Good riddance to bad rubbish, is my view. This man and his cohorts robbed a train, but worse than that, they robbed the train driver of his life. He never fully recovered from the beating he received.

Biggs then manages to escape and cocks a snoop at authority from Brazil until he gets old and returns here so he can take advantage of the NHS to look after him.

He should never have been let back into the country. I am disgusted at the amount of publicity he has received.

T W HILLIER
Llanymynech

Texting is a huge threat to language

ENGLISH is closer today to being a world language than ever before. It is the de facto language in diplomacy and air-traffic control, the international language of science and sea captains.

Seventy-five per cent of the world's mail and telex, 60 per cent of radio and 90 per cent of the internet traffic is in English. It ought to be a source of great pride to those whose mother tongue is English, an inducement to speak it properly - sadly, this is not the case.

The slang and the rude and offensive areas of our language have now been compounded by text abbreviations. I offer examples: NEI (anyone) and T+ (think positive).

Texts are a serious threat to our language.
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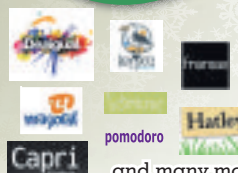


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NEWS

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Progress plans for electricity projects

TWO controversial power projects near the Shropshire/Welsh border are expected to make major progress in 2014.

Energy firm Scottish Power says it hopes to submit a planning application in the next 12 months for a £64 million windfarm at Dyfnant Forest near Lake Vyrnwy.

And it also hopes to start construction on an overhead power cable from Wrexham to Oswestry as part of a separate project. The firm says it has reduced the scale of the project at Dyfnant Forest which it has been working on since 2008.

But Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies has already branded the plans as "disastrous" for the region.

The energy firm says it is now gearing up to move to the next stage of the process. Company spokesman Paul Ferguson said: "Scottish Power Renewables is now in the process of reviewing these responses and considering appropriate amendments with a view of submitting planning application in 2014."

Meanwhile, the firm is carrying on work on a proposal to build a £13 million power line from Legacy, near Wrexham, to Oswestry.

The power line sparked objections from councillors on both sides of the Shropshire/Welsh border.

Warm clothing appeal for the refugees fleeing Syria

by Pam Kingsley

A FORMER GP has launched an appeal to collect warm clothing for refugees fleeing the unrest in Syria, a country where she had "the time of her life" as a student.

Sally Whipple, from Maesbrook, near Oswestry, said the ongoing upheaval in the country and surrounding regions had been particularly hard to hear about as both she and her eldest daughter, Jenny Wright, have spent time in the region.

In 1970, aged 18, Dr Whipple took part in a United Nations summer work camp in Lebanon, spending three weeks with young people from other countries in the Lebanese mountains.

"My eldest daughter studied Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies at Cambridge and was required to spend a year in an Arabic country as part of her course.

"She chose to go to Syria and spent a year living in Damascus, teaching and studying in the city, in Mahajareen and Yamook, the latter being the suburb where displaced Golan Palestinians live and where fighting is now most intense."

Dr Whipple, now 61, and her daughter visited Tripoli to meet one of the friends she made in 1970, Dr Mounzer Alameddine. Through him she heard of the hardships faced by refugees in Tripoli and wants to do something to help.

"We hear that there are



Sally Whipple and Jenny Wright during their trip to Syria and Lebanon.

some 100,000 refugees camping in Tripoli and the area, never mind the similar number stranded in the freezing Beqaa Valley," she said. "Mounzer says that local people are doing all they can to feed, shelter and clothe the refugees but they are swamped, and political and religious differences,

proximity to active fighting and memories of the problems caused by entrenched Palestinian refugees render the situation inevitably volatile.

"As a response to all this it seemed to me that to collect warm clothing, particularly socks, stockings, vests, hats and gloves, would be the least this affluent nation could do to help the refugees so I am starting a Socks for Syria box collection locally.

Dr Whipple has picked up one full box of items from The Knockin Shop in Knockin, while boxes in Sainsbury's in Oswestry and in Kinnerley village shop have been filling up.

She is now appealing for donations towards the cost of transporting the items to Lebanon.

• Money towards transportation can be given via www.handinhandforsyria.org.uk marked for Dr Whipple's collection. Contact Dr Whipple on (01691) 682213.

Steaming off to pastures new



The Llangollen Railway has said farewell to a familiar steam train.

IT HAS been a mainstay of a heritage railway for the past two decades – but this steam engine has made its final journey along the line.

Hundreds of rail enthusiasts flocked to say farewell to the Black Five locomotive, which was on show for the last time over the weekend on the Llangollen Railway near the Shropshire border.

The train has been running on the line since 1993, but has now been sold and will move to new owners in Yorkshire.

George Jones, Llangollen Railway spokesman, said: "Black Five has been with us now for 20 years of service and is a fond favourite and I am sure hundreds or thousands of people will have good memories of it. It has now been sold on for another adventure, this time in Yorkshire and we will be sad to see it go, but times move on."

Black Five was built in Derby in 1944 and was preserved in 1968 when steam trains stopped being used by British rail. It came to Llangollen in 1993.

Owner of chapel reveals site plans

THE owner of a former chapel is hoping to reopen the building as an entertainment venue in 2014.

Hermon Chapel, in Chapel Street, Oswestry, is owned by town councillor Duncan Kerr, who opened up the venue to host a handful of music events and talks during autumn 2013.

Mr Kerr said the events went so well he is now planning to apply for an entertainment licence and to reopen the chapel in February as an entertainment venue.

He said: "We had a temporary licence for the events we held in 2013. Up to now it's been a bit of testing the water."

"I've got to see what works there and whether people feel comfortable there. But we seem to have a formula that works."

"We will be closed in January for refurbishment and we'll have a full programme after that. We're bringing in higher quality music and films and plays."

The chapel has retained its interior layout, with pews and a raised platform which is now used as a stage for performers.

Among the events and acts already lined up for 2014 are Bluegrass folk band Little Red Bird and the annual Giffest event which is held in pubs around Oswestry each summer.

Advertisement

HOW DO I GO ABOUT CLAIMING COMPENSATION FOR MUM'S FALL IN HOSPITAL?

Q: My mother was taken ill at home and I called for an ambulance which took her to hospital. She was admitted to the ward for tests but whilst there she fell out of bed. It was several days before anyone realised she had broken her hip, despite her telling them she was in severe pain.

As a result of the delayed diagnosis and subsequent operation she needed, there were complications and we have now been told it is unlikely she will ever walk again unaided. I put in an official complaint to the hospital and received an apology, but I don't feel that is enough. I think they should pay compensation. What should I do?

A: You should make an appointment with a reputable law firm that specialises in personal injury and clinical negligence claims. There are law firms around who mainly deal with low value motor collision claims who will not have the experience or interest in your mother's case. In your mother's case any compensation needs to reflect not only her injury but the long term effects of the injury and the way in which they will affect her future life.

Independent medical expert reports must be obtained, dealing firstly with the issue of who was to blame for your mother's injury – the breach of duty report. Then a report is needed on the consequences of the injury – the condition and prognosis report.

From what you say it is possible that your mother may need to move into a care home if she cannot get about unaided. If this is the case, a life expectancy prognosis and care costs will also need to be taken into consideration when making a claim. A reputable Solicitor should be able to offer you a No-Win, No-Fee arrangement that will reduce your exposure to costs.

Further information relating to this question is available from John Hulme, a Partner with GHP Legal.

For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194 or visit www.ghplegal.co.uk.

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NEWS

01691 668094

Bead shop could be made into tearoom

A BEAD and jewellery making shop in Oswestry could be turned into a tea shop.

The owners of Beadaz-zled, at 17 Beatrice Street, are planning to relocate to larger premises further down the street.

Elspeth Edwards, an Ellesmere town councillor, has already drawn up plans for the shop once it becomes vacant.

Miss Edwards has submitted a planning application to Shropshire Council for permission to convert the unit into a tea shop.

Her plans would see the shop opening from 8am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sundays.

The new cafe is expected to create seven jobs with three full-time staff and four part-time staff.

Planning officers at Shropshire Council are expected to make a decision whether to grant planning permission for the change of use by the start of February.

Sock knitting

A HANDS-ON, introductory workshop to let people into the secrets of sock knitting will be held at Oswestry Library on February 15. The event will be led by Becca Tansley of Alterknit. The afternoon workshop costs £25. Call 07814 211974.

Tragic couple's loss leads to life-saving heart screening

HEALTH screening days, which campaigners say are vital in picking up undiagnosed heart conditions, will be held thanks to the hard work of a St Martins couple who lost their son.

St Martins couple Sue and Chris Dewhirst say the health events will be a fitting legacy to their 17-year-old son Matthew who died in 2012 from an undiagnosed heart condition.

by Iain St John

The couple launched the CRY for Matthew campaign and started fundraising to pay for the costs of staging the heart screening days after their rugby-mad son died during a fitness training session with friends.

The screening days are hosted by the Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) charity.

The charity works to encourage all sports clubs, groups and schools to screen people for undiagnosed heart conditions before they take part in physical exercise.

The screening events will be held at Ellesmere College, the school Matthew attended, and the home of Crewe Alexandra, his favourite football team.

The couple said they were delighted to have raised enough money through various fundraising initiatives and from support from friends and relatives, to meet the cost of staging the screening events.

Mr Dewhirst said: "We

have managed to raise sufficient funds to pay for the screening in Ellesmere and Crewe and are part way there for the same again in 2015.

"The Oswestry Lions have offered to fund a day of screening to be held at Ellesmere College next May and the CRY for Matthew screening dates have come online for booking so people need to go to www.cry.org.uk to book a place.

"We will ask for donations on the day to cover the funding of future years of screening.

"Chris and I are so pleased that we have managed to raise the initial £19,000 that was needed to secure the four screening days booked for 2014 and provide CRY with funds for their core work in raising awareness of sudden young cardiac death which we know kills at least 12 young people a week in the UK."



Chris and Sue Dewhirst, of St Martins, who lost their son Matthew due to an undiagnosed heart condition.

NEWS

in brief

Spring theme for sculpture display

AN exhibition of sculpture by Jas Davidson and Tony Meadows will open at a gallery later this month.

The Rights of Spring will be held from January 18 to March 1 at the Dunbabin Art Space at the Willow Gallery, Oswestry.

Mr Meadows said: "The exhibition celebrates the sensual base of human creativity and the power of our connection to nature."

"Spring can mean many things, not only the glorious season of renewal and growth after winter's long grip, but also elasticity, agile leaping movement, poise and flexibility."

The gallery opens from 10am to 5pm each day.

Three injured in one-car accident

THREE people were treated for minor injuries following a one-vehicle crash on the Shropshire border.

Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service said two appliances from Montgomery attended the crash on the B4388 between Forden and Montgomery shortly before 11pm on Saturday.

A spokesman said: "We sent two appliances from Montgomery who made the vehicle safe."

"As we did that, three occupants of the car were assessed for injuries by the ambulance service but were believed to have only suffered minor injuries."

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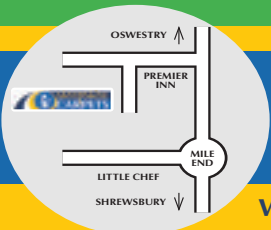
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WELSHPOOL

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NEWS

in brief

Firm starring in business video

A FIRM from Welshpool is to star in a case study video to show how Welsh Assembly support can boost business.

Invertex Drives, a variable speed drives expert in Welshpool, was invited to take part in a series of case studies produced for the Welsh Government.

The company received support from the Welsh Government to ensure it develops world-leading products. Operations director Charles Haspel said: "We've had two forms of support, one in terms of providing us with buildings; the other focused on innovation."

Council hosting table top sales

WELSHPOOL Town Council will be holding community table top sales in the Corn Exchange at the Town Hall on Saturday, January 25; Saturday, February 22; Saturday, October 18 and Saturday, November 15.

Each sale will run from 9am to 2pm and tables are £5 each. Community organisations, charities or individuals are welcome. Call (01938) 553142 or e-mail wtccouncil@btinternet.com

Rotary celebration

WELSHPOOL Rotarians and guests enjoyed the annual Christmas dinner at The Royal Oak Hotel. President Olwen John presented staff with a gratuity.

National crazy golf event planned for town car park

A TOWN centre car park will be transformed into a giant crazy golf course after a deal was struck to bring the national championships to the region.

Welshpool Town Council has confirmed the town will host the Welsh Crazy Golf Championships in August, with the Church Street car park set to be the venue.

The town council has been in negotiations with the organisers and said £100 is on offer to the winner.

Town clerk Robert Robinson said: "The date for this event has been set as Bank Holiday Monday, August 25, and it will take place in the Church Street car park area of the town centre. Anyone can take part as long as they are eight years of age or more on the day of the competition."

by Andrew Morris

Memories of ship's sinking

A PASSENGER of a ship which ran aground in thick fog off the Portuguese coast before breaking up and sinking has written a book about her story.

Ruthie Lockyer was just eight when the RMS Hildebrand III crashed at Cascais Point, near Lisbon, on September 25, 1957, while she was travelling with her mother and father, who was a Methodist Minister on the way to preach in the West Indies.

Although Ruthie, who now lives in Welshpool, and her family managed to escape the wreckage unharmed like all other passengers and crew, she said the sinking left them with nothing to their name.

She has now written a book on how the family recovered and came back to Britain, settling in Yeovil, Somerset, before she made her way to Welshpool in retirement.

The book is available from The Spar in Guilsfield, near Welshpool, priced at £4.95 with 50p of each sale going to a school in Kenya or e-mail alukundo@gmail.com

"Competitors will need to book in at 8.30am and the event ends at 6pm. If it is very wet the number of rounds might be reduced but we will do all we can to try and ensure all runs to plan."

"There will be full PA system and information point so people can be up to date at any time on how competitors are doing, but the event is restricted to 144 entries. The top four will receive prizes and there will be two nine-hole courses and each one will need to be completed twice during the day."

The championship was first held in Newport, South Wales in 2010 and has gained a cult following in the last four years.

Mr Robinson had previously said he hoped the event would be a boost to the town's events calendar and to the local economy.

The town council axed the annual Be a Local Tourist Week which encourages people to check out attractions on their own doorstep to enable it to inject new life into the calendar.

Mr Robinson added that other new events will include a pancake race at Maesdyr Recreation Ground in February, while the town council will also look to assist with the running of the town carnival.

Bethan's friends raise £15,000



Seen with the cheques, front from left, Arwel and Lynne Evans with organiser Lloyd James.

CHARITY cyclists have raised £15,000 by cycling 220 miles in honour of a six-year-old girl who had her arm and shoulder removed to be irradiated to rid her of cancer.

The riders were relatives and friends of Arwel and Lynne Evans, of Llangadfan, near Welshpool, whose daughter Bethan was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma, a form of bone cancer, last year.

Bethan underwent an eight-hour operation at the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham, where surgeons removed the

bone from her left arm and shoulder before rushing it in an ambulance across the city to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to be irradiated to kill off any cancerous cells.

The arm bone and shoulder were then reattached to Bethan's body.

Due to the treatment and operation, she has no feeling in the humerus but can move her arm, hand and fingers.

The family split the £15,094.08 between the Kids Cancer Charity and Breast Cancer Campaign.

Bankrupt Griffin's pledge to continue

THE leader of the British National Party has vowed to continue in politics despite being declared bankrupt.

Nick Griffin, 54, who lives in Llanerfyl, near Welshpool, was declared bankrupt for a year at Welshpool County Court last week, but said he will use the experience to his favour.

He said the leading petitioner against him was Gilbert Davies Solicitors in Welshpool, who he owes £120,000.

Mr Griffin said he had offered to repay his creditors 42p in the £1 over the next five years, which was rejected.

Mr Griffin has vowed to continue as MEP for the North West of England saying he had "no significant assets". He added he will continue as party chairman and will stand for re-election as an MEP.

He said: "This won't stop me standing for our people and it is of no political significance."

"I will also launch the most effective campaign ever yet launched by the British National Party."

"This order will not prevent me fighting for the interests of the British people or leading the British National Party to a fresh round of electoral victories. I will take whatever is thrown at me and deal with it."

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Souvenirs of royal visit on display at museum



Meg Heward takes a last look at the display at Powysland Museum.

HUNDREDS of people attended an exhibition featuring souvenirs from Royal visits to Wales which closed last weekend.

The exhibition, at Powysland Museum, Welshpool featured royal memorabilia and items from The Queen's visit to Welshpool in 2010.

The museum featured gifts presented to the Royal Family and artwork from the Royal Collection.

Eva Bredsdorff, museum curator, said the exhibition had proved popular.

She said: "In May 2010 Her Majesty

by Graham Breeze

Queen Elizabeth II visited Welshpool with her husband the Duke of Edinburgh. They were here to open the new cattle market outside the town and to visit the market in the town hall.

"They also met the people of Welshpool during a walkabout from the town hall to the Royal Oak Hotel, where the royal couple had lunch.

"Judging by the turn-out of people, the amount of flags and the loud cheering, The Queen was a most popular visitor and her visit was a special event for the area.

"The Royal Family carry out numerous visits throughout the year and this is a tradition that has gone on for generations. During such visits members of the Royal Family are often presented with presents celebrating the event. It is these gifts and other commemorative memorabilia which have inspired this exhibition."

She added: "Powysland Museum is most grateful to Her Majesty The Queen for generously lending works from the Royal Collection and to the staff at Royal Collection Trust for their help and support in getting items ready, transported and displayed in the museum."

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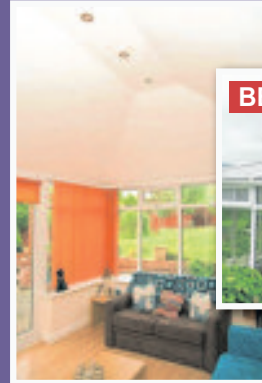


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The British Ironwork Centre in Oswestry Shropshire has been challenged to create a enormous 12 ft gorilla statue from old spoons.

Uri Geller famous TV personality and mystifier who opens his gardens to charity five times a year, has asked the Ironwork Centre to create a monstrous gorilla sculpture from a mixture of iron & spoons from members of the public.

Mr Geller has said: "I use the sculptures in my garden to inspire poorly children. I am not a healer, but when children see the items I have, they are in awe."
"I think it helps them to think positively."

Tickets will be available for the unveiling on the 17th May 2014 at the British Ironwork Centre open day, whereby Uri will officially reveal the sculpture for the nation's media crews.

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NEWS

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Breakfast meetings ends after 20 years

A MEN'S breakfast meeting which ran in Oswestry for more than 20 years has closed its doors due to declining numbers.

The St Oswald's Men's Fellowship Breakfast was set up in 1992 by Bill Bowen, a member of the parish church in Oswestry.

Mike Parry, one of the regulars, said: "The vicar challenged Bill to do something to support the decade of evangelism."

"Bill had heard of a successful fellowship breakfast group meeting in another area and thought that this might be a worthwhile venture."

"Bill decided, with the approval and support of the vicar, to start a Men's Fellowship Breakfast at St Oswald's Church, to meet once a month, open to men of any Christian denomination."

The first breakfast saw seven men enjoy a breakfast cooked by Bill. By the mid-1990s the average attendance was more than 60 with members from as far away as Wrexham, Ellesmere and Shrewsbury.

Mr Parry said: "The cost of the breakfast to the members was initially so low that the members themselves encouraged Bill to increase the price charged." He said declining numbers have led to the sad decision to terminate the fellowship.

Mayor predicts remembrance of war and new opportunities

by Pam Kingsley

THE mayor of Oswestry has said 2014 will be a year of looking back in remembrance and looking forward to new opportunities.

Councillor Chris Schofield said he is expecting the commemorations of World War I to play a large part in the life of the town in 2014, but is also expecting a year of development for Oswestry.

He said: "Oswestry is a town with a proud history and many traditions set around military, markets, railways and so on."

"In 2014, as a Town Council, we will continue to do our best, respecting heritage and traditions but looking to the future and securing opportunities and investment."

Councillor Schofield said he was particularly struck with the mix of heritage and hope at the Remembrance Sunday parade in November.

"Standing at the Memorial Gates really brought home memories of the past and of those no longer with us. Yet we saw the large numbers of young people on parade who represent the future of this, and many other towns in years to come," he said.

"Next year will see the commemoration of the First World War. We are coordinating activities and events with various partners and I am delighted that, by next summer, our Memorial Gates will be fully restored with replacement marble plaques."

His comments came a week after it was announced work will begin on a £45million development at the entrance to the town.

"The recent months have been very tough for many, but we have worked closely with Shropshire Council trying to bring forward employment land for job creation and by introducing grants to bring town centre retail properties back into use," he said. On behalf of the Mayoress and my colleagues at Oswestry Town Council, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2014."



Chris Schofield

Toy-filled car is gift for hospice

A JAGUAR car filled with toys has been driven to Hope House Children's Hospice.

The idea came from Craig Petty, principal dealer of Hatfields Jaguar in Shrewsbury, who has helped to raise a large amount of money for various charities over the years.

Mr Petty said: "Hope House do so much fantastic work every day of the year in tremendously difficult circumstances and the thought of making some very special children a little happier at this time of year is important to us all."

The Jaguar was filled with toys and presents thanks to the help of individuals and businesses including Shropshire Chamber, Golden Bear and Cosmo Books.

Area fundraiser for Hope House, Linsey Kilvert, on receiving the gifts, said: "We are very grateful to Hatfields Jaguar for collecting this fantastic array of gifts as we rely on the generosity of people in the community to support us."

Mince pie treats on castle tours

Castle Manager Sue Ellis with some mince pies.

PEOPLE were fed mince pies while taking part in tours of Whittington Castle.

The festive treats were offered to visitors who took part in the venue's traditional mince pie tours.

The tours have become increasingly popular as a way of dealing with the post-Christmas excess.

And visitors were also able to learn more about the history of the castle and some of the people who used to live there.

Castle manager Sue Ellis said the tours were a great way for visitors to get some exercise during the festive season.

She said: "People can join our guide for a historic walking tour of the castle then warm up with a hot drink and mince pie or cake in our tearoom."

"This was a chance to look around the castle, go into locked rooms and see the castle armour which was found in the moat and comes from the Civil War."

"It was a great way to walk off Christmas."

For more information call (01691) 662500.

Housing scheme going to planners

UP TO 12 houses could be built on a site in Oswestry following the demolition of a smallholding.

While the house at 104 Llwyn Road is occupied, the smallholding is not currently being used and developers hope to gain planning permission to build new homes on the land.

The outline planning application has been submitted by Bryan Jones, from Trefonen.

He said: "The number of dwellings would be for the developer to discuss with the planners when submitting detailed proposals. The 12 homes is an estimate of the number of dwellings to be built."

However Michael Frost, one of the site's neighbours, has objected to the plan.

He said: "I am concerned that the development of this plot will have a serious impact on my family's privacy, our ability to sell our property which is currently on the market and the conservation of the woodland surrounding the plot."

"I have enjoyed the privacy that the vacant land behind my property has given since I moved in. I am deeply concerned about the disturbance it will cause to me and my family both in noise and building waste."

A decision on the planning application is expected by March.

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NEWS

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NEWS

in brief

History group is meeting at hall

THE next meeting of the Oswestry & Border History and Archaeology Group will be tomorrow (Friday) in Oswestry Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Archaeologist Shelagh Hampton, who edits the group's Archaeological and Historical Society newsletter, will ask 'Who were the Celts?' as she looks at Iron Age society in Britain.

New members and visitors are very welcome.

Full details of the group's lectures are available at Oswestry Library and at www.pastcare.org.com/OBHAG or contact (01691) 690184.

Talk on Chelsea gardens for club

OSWESTRY Garden Society will hold its next meeting on January 20.

The topic for the evening, which will be held at the town's Cornerstone Baptist Church at 7.30pm, will be "how to build a Chelsea garden" with speaker Chris Jones. The competition will be a photograph of your own garden.

Visitors are welcome, and plants and produce may be sold at any meeting.

Details from Carol Laycock on (01691) 676482.

Society meeting

OSWESTRY Recorded Music Society meets on January 24 with a programme of "Amadeo and Eve". The meeting is at the Qube at 7.30pm.

Public meetings planned on council's budget pressures

SIX public meetings will be held in the new year to discuss budget pressures facing Powys County Council which will result in 300 redundancies.

The drop-in sessions will be held between January 13 and 16 and will include meetings in Welshpool, Newtown and Machynlleth. Council chiefs say they want to hear what services people want to see protected or what can be lost.

The authority is facing a £20 million finding shortfall in the next financial year and a £40 million black hole over the next three years and has announced it is looking to cut 300 posts.

by Andrew Morris

Graduation for young students

STUDENTS are graduating at an early age these days – thanks to Shropshire Children's University.

The initiative, launched in 2011, encourages children to take part in activities outside the curriculum to stimulate learning.

They can take part in events provided by their schools, or outside school with their families and friends.

Junior and early secondary school pupils have to gain 30 activity credits in the SCU Passport for Learning to graduate.

Thirty pupils in Years 5 to 8 attended Oswestry School's first Shropshire Children's University graduation ceremony held in front of proud parents, grandparents and siblings before Christmas.

Children gained credits for visiting recognised learning destinations and were also awarded credits for attending extra-curricular clubs provided at Oswestry School.

University chancellor and award-winning author Pauline Fisk presided.

A meeting will be held in Welshpool on January 16 at Welshpool Town Hall.

Councillor David Jones, council leader, warned that some services would be axed to make the necessary services.

He said some charges could be introduced to services such as pre-planning application advice and that charges could be increased for car parking and leisure centre admission to generate more income.

Councillor Jones said: "The scale of budget pressures mean that some services will no longer be provided by the county council. In some cases similar provision may be provided by local communities or other organisations but some services will disappear altogether.

"We have already embarked on major changes to the way we work and will see a very significant reduction in the number of people working for the council. We anticipate that staff levels will decrease significantly in these difficult times.

"Changes in the way public services are funded, with a greater emphasis on health and less on local government means that some services traditionally provided by the council will not be provided in future."

He added levels of council tax would also be examined, and said every one per cent increase would generate £580,000 in income for the authority.

Funhouse play centre reopens



Assistant manager Helen Cross, left, with owner Ashley Kitchen.

A CHILDREN'S play centre has reopened in Oswestry town centre.

A dozen jobs have been created at the reopened Fantastic Funhouse at the former Cambrian Railways works building which closed in 2011.

It has been reopened by a Staffordshire-based group and will keep the name Fantastic Funhouse, but bosses say they have made improvements.

Assistant manager Helen Cross said: "The response has been great already.

"We set up a Facebook site telling people about it and we have had lots of interest and we had bookings for 15 parties even before we had opened."

Miss Cross said: "We will be employing 12 staff at the play centre and coffee shop. Three of the staff are doing NVQ apprenticeships so we are training them up as well. We hope to take on seven more apprentices in the coming months and as the business groups we hope to take on eight or nine more general staff."

Volunteers are key to the future of projects

COMMUNITIES will have to do more for themselves in the future as Shropshire Council continues to slim down, a councillor has said.

Councillor Martin Bennett, who serves on Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council, said volunteers would be key to whether many community projects get off the ground.

The councillor led a team who put together a document called the Oswestry 2020 plan which gives a vision of how the town should develop in the future.

He said the plan will help voluntary groups apply for funding from the lottery and grant-giving bodies to lead and deliver community projects themselves.

Councillor Bennett said: "Oswestry 2020 was heralded as a valuable document at its launch in November, and will become an invaluable one in 2014 and following years.

"Already it has become the starting point for the town council to take a fresh look at what it does and how it does it, and the times will demand that our local Voluntary and Community Sector do the same. With Shropshire Council attempting to save some £80 million over the next three years, half of that in 2014, council services are unlikely to be delivered in the same way."

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NEWS

01691 668094



Aidan and Adele Steele with their teddies at the zip wire fundraiser. Pictures: Peter Flemmich.



Bellringer Peter Woollam puts a teddy on the wire ready for the big drop.



Carefully lowering another teddy down from the top of the tower during the fundraiser.



Isla and Ben Rothera and Sophia Baukena-Jones collect the teddies at the bottom.

Teddies faced zip wire from the tower in a real toy story

IT'S a far cry from your average fundraising coffee morning – supporters of an Oswestry church sent their beloved teddy bears down a zipline from the top of the tower to bring in cash to maintain the bells.

About 100 people climbed the 102 steps of the tower at St Oswald's Church before having their cuddly toys strapped into a harness and sent down the line to the churchyard below.

All of the toys – which included cats, dogs, teddies, pigs and dinosaurs – landed safely during the eye-catching spectacle, which was organised as part of a campaign to raise £10,000

by Sue Austin

to maintain the bells amid fears they could start cracking.

Tower captain Brian Rothera thanked everyone who took part.

He said most of the people had been happy to take part – but added there had been a few owners who had been reluctant to see their treasured companions flying through the air.

Mr Rothera said: "The zipwire for toys was great fun and I think most of the children enjoyed seeing their toys fly the air."

"There was one little boy who almost wouldn't let us strap his dinosaur onto the zip wire and he was very pleased when it was safely

down on the ground. The funniest sight was a talking pig which talked the whole of the journey down. We had to limit the numbers to 30 at any one time and there were times when people were having to wait."

Aiden Steele and his seven-year-old sister, Amelia, went along with their dad, Andrew from their home in Morda.

Scary

Aiden took his toy dog, Kevin, and Amelia, her cuddly dog, Mia, to experience the ride. "It was great fun seeing Kevin flying down, it was really exciting."

"We climbed to the top of the tower which was a bit scary but really good. You could see a long way. I would definitely do it again."

Mr Rothera said about £265 was raised and said the weather had been wonderful with views across Shropshire to the Wrekin, into Montgomeryshire and up to the Racecourse.

"It also got people out on Boxing Day getting some exercise. There are 102 steps to the top of the tower," he said.

"We have traditionally rung in the new year by sounding the bells and we will be doing that again."

"We would like to thank everyone who supported the fundraising event."

Anyone who would like to help fund the project to maintain the bells can contact Mr Rothera on 07831 490038.



Victoria Evans with a clutch of teddies.



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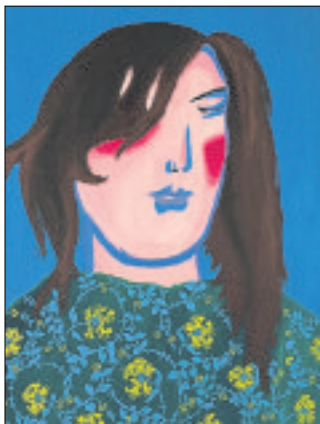
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Portrait of a Girl, by Jess Luddington, one of the pieces displayed at the exhibition.



The Fine Art Society building in London.



Visitors at the Moreton Hall Centenary Art Exhibition at the Fine Art Society: James Tanner, Sarah Waters, Jane Heath and Chris Waters.



Prize winning essay writer Natalya Kahn.

Accolades cap another successful school year

MORETON Hall Sixth Form, Oswestry, has had a successful academic year so far, with one pupil, and one former member of the school, receiving high accolades.

Natalya Kahn, who is in the sixth form, was awarded first prize in the Gladstone Ancient History Essay Competition, from Omnibus, the national schools' classics magazine.

Her essay, entitled 'What can we learn about the society and culture of Roman Britain from archaeological and non-literary sources?', was judged to be the best by a panel of assessors.

The competition attracted a wide range of

entries from schools around the country with Natalya's lively, detailed, and well-written piece a deserved winner. The essay will be printed in the first issue of Omnibus this year.

Natalya was also highly commended recently in an essay competition organised by St John's College at Oxford University.

Excellent

Meanwhile, former Moreton Hall pupil, Phoebe Griffith, who is currently in her second year at Brasenose College, Oxford, where she is reading biological sciences, has been awarded an exhibition in recognition of excellent academic performance throughout her first year.

In addition, more than 200 students, Old Moretonians and friends of Moreton Hall

entered works of art for the Moreton Hall Centenary Art Exhibition on the theme of 'Woman'. Judged by an expert panel of artists, 50 final pieces were selected and combined with artworks from some of Moreton's finest Old Moretonian artists.

The Fine Art Society's Patrick and Cordelia Bourne generously offered the space in their gallery for a weekend, creating a most memorable art exhibition and centenary event.

Scholarship and entrance examinations for entry at age 11, 12 and 13 will be held at the end of this month. For outstanding candidates, scholarships and bursaries may equate to 100 per cent of fees. Please contact the registrar for further information on 01691 773671 or registrar@moretonhall.com



Former Moreton Hall pupil Phoebe Griffith.

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Jaci reaches her goal to shed four stone for son



Jaci Davies before joining Slimming World.



Jaci Davies after shedding four stone.

A WOMAN who set out to lose four stone for her son's college graduation has won her slimming group's "Woman Of The Year Award."

Jaci Davies joined Jan Evans' Wednesday Slimming World group at The Memorial Hall Oswestry on January 23 last year.

"My goal was to lose four stone for my son's graduation in December," she said. "Yes, I was nervous. However, as soon as I walked through the doors I

Advertisement feature

was made to feel so welcome by Jan and the other members.

"I love the total confidentiality we have in group. My journey to lose four stone took 47 weeks. I've loved the awards and being voted group Woman of the Year was so special.

"The best was reaching my target which I achieved in November 6 - days before my son's graduation.

"The food is fantastic I never feel hungry and there isn't anything I can't

have. I make choices and all the free food we can eat means I'm never hungry."

"People laugh when they know I work at Wots Cookin in Oswestry. The support I've had from work colleagues and especially Keith and Carol has been amazing.

"It just shows you can still eat healthy and work with fish and chips and lose weight.

"Jan and her group members are so supportive and choosing my own target was also so important to me."

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CARE

Design helps dementia sufferers feel at home



Fiona Phillips with Morris Care director Timothy Morris, home manager Carolyn Farmer and interior designer Amanda Morris.

INTERIOR design plays a big part in making residents feel at home in a successful care home.

"A positive and homely environment in a care home is really determined by the aesthetics of the building as well as the quality of care provision itself," says interior design specialist for Morris Care, Amanda Morris.

Having studied at Stirling University, the leading authority on dementia research, Amanda has made it her mission to utilise a pioneering

Advertisement feature

approach to interior design at Cedar Court, a new specialist care home in Audlem.

Commended by journalist, broadcaster and campaigner for dementia care, Fiona Phillips, the home combines specialist layouts with an appreciation for the challenges of caring.

As described by Amanda: "We know design has such a positive effect for people living with dementia and this, matched by the staff's commitment to

providing high quality care, really does make Cedar Court a unique place to be. Residents can come and go as they please, spend time with our carers or make a cup of tea with others."

She added: "Residents are helped to feel reassured in their own environment and encouraged to decide their own daily routines as they would in their own homes."

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CARE

Pharmacist's sun cream alert for skiing holidays



The Pharmacy @ Caxton in Oswestry.

SUN cream may not be the first thing on your mind at this time of year but a Shropshire pharmacist is warning it could be important.

Bosses at The Pharmacy @ Caxton in Oswestry have said people going skiing need to remember to protect themselves despite the cold temperatures.

John Gentle, the superintendent pharmacist, said: "It seems silly to be speaking about sun cream in January when the mornings are dark and the days cold and wet, but for those going skiing it is vital.

Advertisement feature

"Skiers and snowboarders don't tend to wear face covers and when they stop for a break they often take off their coats and have bare arms.

"Despite the cold air people can often get very badly sunburnt, especially around the nose and cheeks area.

"It can leave you with marks on your face that are not only embarrassing, they are also damaging."

The Pharmacy in Oswald Road supplies high factor prescription sun

cream available to patients with a skin conditions as well as the usual brands.

The Pharmacy @ Caxton offers a free delivery service and can collect your prescription from any surgery in the Oswestry area and deliver to your home free of charge.

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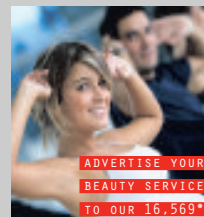
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Warning to check oil tanks for leaks

PEOPLE who use oil to heat their homes and businesses are being urged to check their tanks for leaks.

Natural Resources Wales said that following a prolonged cold winter last year, tanks and pipes may have become damaged by freezing temperatures and could cause oil to leak when they are put into use again, causing pollution to nearby ground and watercourses.

As well as inspecting for any visual signs of damage, Natural Resources Wales is also asking people to keep a check on oil levels in the tank during the winter, as a sudden drop in levels can indicate that oil is being lost.

Emyr Jones, Natural Resources Wales spokesman, said: "As well as causing environmental damage, homeowners will also be very aware of the cost of replacing lost oil, so it's in their interest to make sure their tanks are in good working order."

"Cleaning up an oil spill can also be a costly business which could leave householders and businesses facing bills of more than £1,000. We don't want this to happen, which is why we are urging oil users to regularly check their storage facilities."

"If anyone is concerned about damage or a leak, they can contact our incident hotline on 0800 807060."

Politician's book reveals manic depressive secret

DURING his long and distinguished political career Oswestry MP John Biffen had a secret which he feared would ruin him if it became widely known – he was a manic depressive.

He tells the story in his autobiography, *Semi-Detached*, which has been published six years after his death, and in a 2004 letter to political commentator Matthew Parris, who has written the foreword, said he was relieved that he could put it on record.

He had been a nervous and "highly strung" child but had no warning of the illness which hit in the autumn of 1963.

"I was struck down with sharp depression and tiredness. It was a shock when I was on the threshold of a career I had longed for," he writes.

Diagnosed

The episodes would strike him down for up to four days, when he was unable to make speeches or master briefs, followed by longer periods when he was fully active. His NHS doctor diagnosed manic depression and treated him with drugs to offset his mood swings.

Afterwards, Mr Biffen underwent 10 years, up to 1976, having twice-weekly therapy with a Dr A. Erskine in London, which did not cure the problem.

"I arranged a political life that effectively concealed

by Toby Neal

the situation. I was able to do the constituency work, occasionally pleading a stomach upset or cold when I felt exhausted at the thought of some fundraising function. As long as I voted, no-one missed my occasional inactivity in the Commons."

In 1976, Margaret Thatcher invited him to join her shadow cabinet as Energy spokesman, and Mr Biffen enjoyed it and did not find the stress too much. But that changed when he was switched to the high pressure Industry post. Mrs Thatcher, he says, was immensely considerate and told him to get his ailment sorted out and then return to her team, which is in fact what happened.

Mr Biffen writes: "There is no doubt that it had a sharp impact upon my political life. I can now discuss this health problem with candour."

● *Semi-Detached* is published by Biteback Publishing and costs £30.

Line-up of hospital's Girl guides company

WRITTEN on the back of this unsent postcard is: "Hospital Guide Company at Orthopaedic. 1931." It is then the Girl Guides company of Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital. Far left, nearest camera, is Emily Renshaw, who later used her middle name, becoming known as Kathleen Renshaw or Kath Renshaw. Note the guides in beds on the right. This photo is from an album in the possession of her daughter, Mrs Jean Roe. Kath, who had had her lower leg amputated after being wrongly diagnosed with TB ankle, was a student at Derwen College at Gobowen and while there met John Podmore, who had had polio. They married in 1936.

Students working for citizen award

PUPILS at The Marches School are carrying out a range of projects as they work towards the National Citizenship Service (NCS) Award scheme.

Sixth-formers are taking part in the project, which can help with university applications.

The programme of activities began with a residential trip to Bala where, through a variety of physical, personal and creative challenges, students learnt leadership, communication skills and team work.

They have also been working on community projects, from decorating cakes with pre-school children to handing out presents at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital at Gobowen.

Claire Buckle, head of the Marches Sixth Form, said: "In the Sixth Form we recognise that competition for top university places is fierce."

"We are taking every opportunity we can to ensure applications from the Marches Sixth Form stand out from the crowd."

The programme costs around £1,500 per participant but, due to the government funding available, students only have to pay £35 to take part.

The award continues throughout the year.

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Prices correct as of 6th December 2013, based on a 2009 318D SE with 22,000 miles, requiring a first oil service, brake fluid and microfilter using BMW genuine parts.

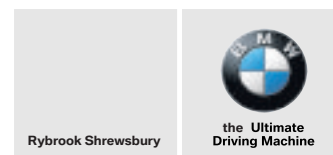
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New car

EcoSport a Ford SUV star

By Ian Donaldson

If you've been looking for a mini SUV recently you may have noticed the absence of Ford representation in what's become a rapidly growing market sector.

The Blue Oval has finally fixed this omission with the EcoSport, a car boasting familiar Ford driving and design characteristics plus a trio of engines promising to be kind on your wallet.

As befits a market sector focused more on urban agility than the ability to climb every mountain, the EcoSport is front-wheel drive only. Up front you've got the choice of Ford's award-winning three-cylinder, 1.0-litre EcoBoost petrol motor, a conventional 1.5-litre petrol and frugal 1.5-litre, four-pot diesel unit.

Riding more than a little higher than a Fiesta, the EcoSport offers drivers a commanding view of the

road. Despite its 'compact' tag, Ford's mini SUV's cabin is surprisingly spacious, and there's enough room for four adults, or more importantly a growing family.

Bash-proof plastics abound in the cabin, which, while coming close to that of a Fiesta or Focus, are the obvious sign of the EcoSport's low-cost roots. Still, what you can see and touch is of a good standard, and the controls and displays will be familiar to existing Ford owners.

Also pleasing is Ford's generosity when it comes to standard equipment.

Multimedia

Focusing initially on high-grade Titanium spec, the EcoSport lacks very little in real terms thanks to the inclusion of keyless ignition, alloy wheels, air-con, decent audio and plush upholstery. Open your wallet a little wider and you can add leather trim, rain sensing wipers, cruise control and Ford's feature-rich multimedia system complete with mobile phone connectivity.

Showroom appeal is all very well, fortunately the EcoSport also makes a convincing case on the



Riding more than a little higher than a Fiesta, the EcoSport offers a commanding view of road.

While not built for outright speed the car boasts a well sorted ride and weighty steering, which should instil plenty of confidence when on the move.

Much work has been done by Ford's engineers to tailor the EcoSport to the demands of European roads and its drivers. The bottom line is that a mini SUV drives much like any current small Ford, which is a considerable achievement and should be enough to give its rivals something to think about.

It's fair to say that, in 1.0-litre EcoBoost trim, the car is best suited to relaxed urban motoring. Brisk performance is easily achievable but push hard and you'll soon be jealous of the extra torque and smoothness of the diesel motor. The EcoBoost petrol-powered car might be quicker in a straight line but the diesel's welcome extra slug of torque might be a deal-breaker for some.

The five-speed manual gearshift is slick in both cars, while the added flexibility of the diesel allows

you to stretch the EcoSport's legs on long journeys. Motorway cruising is a doddle plus you'll need fewer downchanges when attacking hilly terrain.

Other cars might have stolen a march in this market sector but Ford's EcoSport can stand tall, confident it has the requisite talents to meet many of its rivals head on.

It might not have been first to market but it's yet another first-rate motor from Ford.

TESTED

Ford EcoSport 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium

Engine: 1.0-litre petrol unit

Transmission: Five-speed manual

Economy: 53.3mpg.

CO2 Rating: 125g/km.

Performance: 0-62mph 12.7 seconds

Price: £15,995



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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) Highest: FORD New Kuga 1.6 EcoBoost (180PS), A6-AWD: urban 27.7 (10.2), extra urban 44.8 (6.3), combined 36.7 (7.7). Official CO₂ emissions 179g/km. Lowest: FORD Fiesta 1.0 EcoBoost (100PS) Stop-Start, M5: urban 53.3 (5.3), extra urban 76.3 (3.7), combined 65.7 (4.3). Official CO₂ emission 99g/km. *Finance subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Freepost Ford Credit Facility fee (where applicable) is payable with first payment. Deposit allowance only available when financed with Ford credit. Purchase fee (where applicable) is payable with GMFV if you wish to own the vehicle at the end of the agreement. Terms and conditions apply, please ask for full details. This supersedes all previously advertised manufacturer's promotions. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only.

Dealer news

Pro_ceed

By Sharon Walters

Has there even been a properly regarded Korean sports car? We've seen some cars down the years that were vaguely sporting in tone, if not in ability.

Cars like the Hyundai Coupe offered a glimpse of what was potentially available but there was never the corporate will to really press on, despite high-profile rallying campaigns with no sports products to sell off the back of them.

Kia seemed reticent to step up to this particular plate, preferring instead to major on meek and mild.

That changed to a degree with the introduction of the pro_ceed model in 2008. Here was a three-door Kia cee'd that looked good, had a willing chassis but just needed a bit more engine than the 138bhp turbodiesel that was the flagship motor. We got an improved pro_ceed model in 2011, but here the most powerful engine was a 126bhp turbodiesel. Not promising for sports fans. They had to

wait until the unveiling at the 2013 Geneva Motor Show of the pro_ceed GT. With 201bhp, it was the first performance hatch that Kia had ever built.

Buyers of humbler pro_ceed models always knew that there was the kernel of a really good car in there. The steering's fairly meaty by modern standards, there's a reassuring amount of front end grip, the ride/handling compromise is well judged and there's a nice consistency of control weights. All the sorts of stuff that keen drivers look for in other words, but there just was never enough engine. That changes with the introduction of the pro_ceed GT. Here customers get a 201bhp turbocharged four-cylinder 1.6-litre petrol engine that also develops a hefty 265Nm of torque. Yes, it's right out of 'Build A Hot Hatch 101' but it's clearly a formula that works and works well.

This results in acceleration to 62mph in 7.4 seconds which sounds a little pessimistic for such a punchy car. By contrast, a heavier MINI Cooper S with a mere 184bhp will get to 62mph almost half a second quicker, although this may well be down to an issue of gearing. The GT's not heavy, weighing in at around 1280kg. Kia is quick to play down expectations, advising us that it's a warm rather



Priced at around £20,000, the GT looks good value against other similarly styled and powered compact coupes

than a hot hatch and you can see where they're coming from, with many of the top hot hatch players now boasting up to 300bhp. Still, over 200bhp is nothing to be sniffed at, especially as Kia can bring all sorts of other qualities to the party.

The pro_ceed is a handsome, wedge-shaped three-door hatch, designed by Europeans for Europeans. Built in Slovenia under the auspices of the Frankfurt-based Kia Motors Europe design team, it features a longer and lower profile than the five-door car, resulting in an edgy, coupe-like shape. The front end now features Kia's 'tiger nose' grille to lend it a bit more attitude.

The GT builds on this solid foundation, upping the aggression levels a few degrees. Plus there's decent practicality too, with a 60-40 split rear seat folding flat without having to remove the headrests.

Priced at around £20,000, the GT looks good value against other similarly styled and powered compact coupes like Volkswagen's Scirocco and Peugeot's RCZ.

There are two trim levels - 'GT' and 'GT Tech'.

Both feature air-conditioning with cooled glovebox, heated and electrically-adjustable door mirrors, remote central locking and an MP3-compatible CD stereo with USB and auxiliary inputs. There's also a leather-trimmed steering wheel with audio controls, cruise control and electrically-operated folding door mirrors.

As for the really sporty stuff, well customers get distinctive LED daytime running lights, dual-exhaust pipes, 18-inch alloy wheels and eye-catching red brake calipers. Jump inside and you'll spot Recaro sports seats and a cleanly styled, well-built interior. Also designed in is the option for a fully integrated satellite navigation system complete with European mapping and a seven inch colour touch screen. Plus Kia offers a Bluetooth hands-free system and a rear-view parking camera.

Kia's normally aspirated 1.6-litre petrol engine does extremely well at the pumps and in this turbocharged guise it returns 38.2mpg on the combined cycle and puts out a competitive 171g/km of CO2.



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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100 km) Highest: Kia Sportage 'KX-4' 2.0 CRDi 181bhp, A6 are: Urban: 31.0 (9.1), Extra Urban: 46.3 (6.1), Combined: 39.2 (7.2). CO₂ emissions are 143 g/km. Lowest: Kia Rio 3-door '1.1 CRDi 74bhp ISG, M6: Urban: 80.7 (3.5), Extra Urban: 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions are 85 g/km.

*36 month Contract Hire example Kia Picanto 1.0 68bhp 15spd 3 door: Initial payment £988.32 inc VAT followed by 35 payments of £98.83, charges of 3.17ppm/4.60ppm apply if agreed mileage is exceeded (3.17ppm up to 9,999 miles and 4.60ppm over 9,999 miles. All quotations are subject to approval. Kia Contract Hire reserves the right to amend quotations in the event of changes to manufacturer prices, interest rates and volume related bonus. Kia Contract Hire reserve the right to amend quotations in the event of any change to VAT/RFL or any other statutory charges which may become appropriate from time to time. †Licensed credit brokers, subject to age and status, written quotations on request, terms and conditions apply. Prices correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Models shown for illustration purposes only 7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer.

New car

Mazda3 Stunner is mature

By Ian Donaldson

You might have noticed how the real world and the economy figures in car brochures don't have much in common, with reality trailing miles behind hope.

So the latest Mazdas use engines, both petrol and diesel, that are bigger than the opposition and the company insists that by making them cleverer than anyone else it gives better returns – in the real world.

This so-called Skyactiv technology seems to work. Now all that remains is to persuade the punters they can save fuel by buying a car with a bigger engine than they were prepared for.

When the rational side of the buyer's brain gives way to the emotional side, things continue to impress with the new Mazda 3, which looks a bit of a stunner and is going to fast become the com-

pany's biggest seller. Much more grown up than the last one to look at, there's an instant feel of slightly playful maturity to the outside, complete with swoops, curves and slashes.

A little longer, wider and lower than the old model, the new Mazda 3 comes as either hatch or booted saloon, the latter expected to take only a small slice of sales in the UK, where we like the practicality of a hatchback rear end. The saloon is a bit longer than the hatch and has a usefully larger boot.

Inside, the newcomer in a dramatic transformation and at a stroke, makes a rival like the Ford Focus look fussy and less well put together. Even a little dated.

The VW Golf gets closer, but feels a bit dull alongside the dramatic vision of well matched plastics that face the driver of a new Mazda 3. Some might find the relentless black on black finish too austere; to these eyes it looks simply sensible.

Now we come to value, with Mazda insisting (with figures to back it up) that the new baby is cheaper than any obvious rival, especially after you've taken



Now all that remains is to persuade the punters they can save fuel by buying a car with a bigger engine

into account the long list of standard kit that comes with the car.

Prices of either version (the saloon is called Fastback) are identical and start at £16,695 for a car with a 1.5 litre petrol engine. That's fully half as big again as the engine in a rival Focus, yet still produces reasonable economy.

Bigger still, and expected to take the bulk of Mazda 3 sales, is the 2.0 litre petrol version, with 120 horsepower and the potential of good real world economy. The car tested here managed 38mpg on a mixed test route that did not encourage sporty use of the gears.

Going carefully the following day, a diesel-powered version showed an impressive 58mpg on the dash and the car had all the performance you could realistically ever need.

You do need to find an extra £2,250 to take the diesel route, so it will appeal mostly to high mileage company car users.

Every new Mazda 3 comes with a braking system that senses a likely low speed collision and puts the brakes on for you in an emergency.

There are electric windows all round too, along with a big touchscreen and iPod and Bluetooth connectivity.

Climb the grade structure and you can add goodies like xenon lights, head up display, satellite navigation and a Bose sound system.

TESTED Mazda 3

Engine: 2.0 litre 120hp petrol
Warranty: Three years or 60,000 miles
Economy: 55.4mpg officially
Insurance group: 23
Price: £19,095

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the all-new Mazda3 range: Urban 37.7 (7.5) - 60.1 (4.7). Extra Urban 58.9 (4.8) - 80.7 (3.5). Combined 48.7 (5.8) - 72.4 (3.9). CO₂ emissions (g/km) 135 - 104.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results. Retail sales only, subject to vehicle availability for vehicles registered between 02.01.14 and 31.03.14 at participating dealers. T&C apply. *0% finance available on all all-new Mazda3 models with a minimum 50% deposit required. Finance subject to status. 18s or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH15R. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Model shown: all-new Mazda3 120ps SE, OTR from £16,995. Model shown features optional Soul Red Metallic paint (£660). OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European roadside assistance. Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified. Details correct at time of publication and may vary, e.g. if list price changes.

Road test

Skoda Yeti

By Matt Joy

How on earth do you take a success story and make it better? That's the difficult task facing Skoda with its all-conquering Yeti.

First introduced in 2009, the Yeti tore up the rule book with its novel approach to practical motoring, combining the best elements of a family hatchback with those of an SUV to create the ideal crossover.

The general public clearly thought it worked; over 250,000 have been sold since 2009 with a big chunk of those in the UK. But the competition never lets up, and so the Yeti has been enhanced, with the facelifted version arriving in showrooms early in 2014.

The change you'll notice first is the exterior. The Yeti has been brought more into line with the family look, so there's a squared-off grille, smarter body-coloured elements all round and new bi-xenon headlights with LEDs. The round fog lights are gone and replaced by more discreet rectangular items too.

Even with a more mature and discreet look though, there's no mistaking the Yeti for anything

else. It still has that tough, planted look, and with new choices of alloy wheel and paint colour there's even more opportunity to stand out from the crowd. If you don't like the Yeti then these details probably won't change your mind, but the Yeti is distinctive in a sea of similarity and that is worthy of praise.

There's an added twist however. As well as the standard Yeti, there is the Outdoor model, which as its name suggests is better prepared for tough treatment. Outdoor models have a black trim down the sides and on the lower edges of the bumpers, so bumps and scrapes won't break your heart. The bumpers themselves are also of a different design to allow better approach and departure angles should you choose to venture off-road.

There are updates on the inside too with a new three-spoke steering wheel, new seat trims and fabrics plus the option of decorative inserts on the dashboard. It helps to lift the already-good quality feeling of the cabin, without sacrificing any of its utility.

Interior flexibility is still one of the Yeti's strongest assets. The load area is unchanged at 510 litres up to a maximum of 1,760 with all the seats removed, an impressive figure for a car of this size. There's still the flexibility to slide, fold and remove the three individual rear seats too, something which very few

The Skoda Yeti was an excellent car to start with and the changes have merely added to its appeal. It's a family car you need not make excuses for.

rivals can offer. Add to that some new tech, such as a reversing camera and keyless start plus clever features such as a rechargeable torch mounted in the boot and a high-vis vest holder under the front seat, and you get the feeling that the Yeti could cope with just about anything.

Especially if you go for the four-wheel drive version, now equipped with the latest generation Haldex system that automatically diverts power to all four wheels only when required which helps to save fuel as well as giving you traction when needed. In fact the new system means all 4x4 version have reduced CO2 emissions compared to the outgoing models.

Climb behind the wheel and getting comfortable is easy, with plenty of adjustment in the steering wheel and the seat, all topped off by a raised driving position that's a real boon. It's also a delightfully easy car to drive; the manual gearbox is slick, the pedal weights are nice and light and the steering is well-weighted and accurate.

Despite its modest size the 1.2 TSI version gets along very well indeed, behaving like a much larger naturally aspirated engine and pulling the Yeti along more than quickly enough to keep up with the traffic flow.

However the best all-rounder has to be the 2.0

TDI with 140PS, which comes in four-wheel drive Outdoor form. With more torque than you really need you can get up to speed with complete ease, and cruising never requires any effort, even on inclines. The security of four-wheel drive traction also means you can hustle the Yeti along if you want to, and despite its height it feels secure, comfortable and even good fun.

That the revised Yeti has gained improvements and additions rather than wholesale changes tells you everything you need to know; the Skoda Yeti was an excellent car to start with, and the changes have merely added to its appeal. It's a family car you need not make excuses for.

TESTED**Skoda Yeti Outdoor SE**

Engine: 2.0-litre diesel unit producing 138bhp and 236lb.ft of torque

Transmission: Six-speed manual gearbox driving all four wheels

Performance: Top speed 118mph, 0-62mph in 9.9 seconds (est)

Economy: 41mpg combined (est)

Emissions: 164g/km of CO2

Price: £23,015



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Official Fuel Consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Four-bed smallholding in picturesque location

A highly desirable smallholding comprising a four-bedroom home, outbuildings and nearly two acres of land is for sale with Halls.

Yew Tree Cottage, Cefn Y Coed, Llandyssil, is well located between the market towns of Newtown and Welshpool, and only 2.6 miles from Montgomery.

The downstairs accommodation comprises a farmhouse kitchen with a multi-fuel Stanley

range cooker, family lounge, snug, main entrance hall, large conservatory, office/study, utility and cloaks/wc.

Upstairs are three double bedrooms, one with ensuite shower room, a single bedroom and a family bathroom.

Outside is a large parking and turning area along with a range of outbuildings, including garaging, a workshop, three-bay agricultural

building and a storage shed/feed store. The land amounts to about 1.87 acres, which is divided into three paddocks.

Purchasers will have the opportunity to acquire a further building and small area of land by separate negotiation.

The property is priced at £395,000. Contact Halls on 01938 555552 or visit the website www.hallsestateagents.co.uk for details.



Offers invited on beautifully appointed village property

On the market with Richmond Harvey, 20 Ifton Fields, St Martins, is a well appointed mid terraced home with excellent accommodation.

The two-bedroom property is for sale at £113,950 with offers invited.

It has an entrance hall, living room with feature fireplace, kitchen/dining room, attractive refitted bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing where stated, driveway and a nearly landscaped rear garden.

Call Richmond Harvey on 01691 654222 to arrange a viewing.



Terraced home in pleasant position on fringe of town

Pleasantly situated on the edge of Oswestry, 3 New Park Road is an end terraced house with a good-sized rear garden. The property, which is on the market for £109,950 with no upward chain, comprises two reception rooms, two double bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen and utility.

The town is within walking distance and the house is located on a quiet no through road.

Agents Town & Country recommend early viewing to appreciate the location of the property. Call them on 01691 679631 to find out more.

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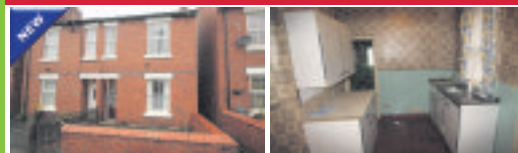
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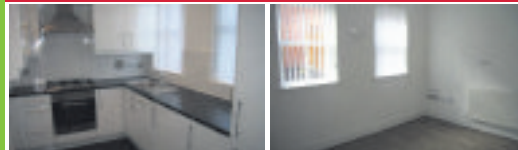
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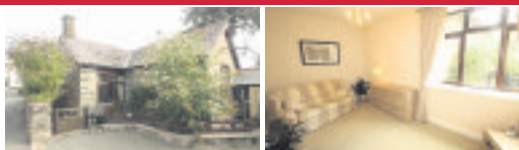


- NO CHAIN!!!
- End of Terrace House
- Two Double Bedrooms

- Two Reception Rooms
- Includes Central Heating
- Close to Town Centre

£109,950

HIGH STREET, GLYN CEIRIOG



- Semi-Detached Property
- One Bedroom
- Two Reception Rooms

- Off Road Parking
- Patio Area to Rear
- EPC Rating D

Offers in the region of £105,000

CHIRK BANK



- Three bedrooms
- End Terrace House
- Well maintained

- Popular location
- Pets considered
- No Smokers

£124,950

GLYN CERIOG



- Mid Terraced Cottage
- Two Bedrooms
- Sought After Location

- Well Maintained. EPC D.
- Rear Gardens
- Stone Outbuilding

£115,000

ST MARTINS



- NO CHAIN!!
- Semi-Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms. EPC D.
- Newly Carpeted and Decorated

£120,000

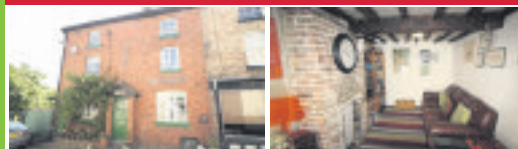
ST MARTINS



- NO CHAIN
- Detached Family House
- Three Bedrooms & Ensuite
- Victorian Conservatory

£149,950

LLANFYLLIN

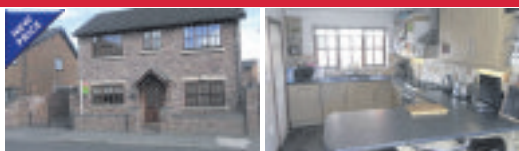


- Five Bedroom House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing

- Town Centre Location
- Amenities Close to Hand
- Full of Character. EPC E

£140,000

GOBOWEN



- Detached Family Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms. EPC C

- Close To All Amenities
- En-Suite & Cloakroom
- Enclosed Lawned Garden

£147,500

LLANFYLLIN



- Modern Detached Bungalow
- Spacious Interior
- Detached Double Garage

£220,000



- Landscaped Gardens
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating

LLANRHAEDR-YM-MOCHNANT



- Semi-Detached Property
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Three Bedrooms

- Two Reception Rooms
- Oil Central Heating
- Backing Onto Fields & River

£169,950

CHIRK



- ****NO CHAIN***
- Modern Detached House Three beds (Formerly 4)
- Contemporary Interior

£199,950

EARDISTON, WEST FELTON



- NO CHAIN!!
- Detached Bungalow
- Superb Potential
- Three Bedrooms

£245,000

TREFLACH



- Detached Character Cottage
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Rear Gardens

Offers in the region of £269,950

MELVERLEY



- Detached Country Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Potential For Extension
- Well Maintained

Offers in the region of £274,995

WESTON RHYN



- Building Plot
- Outline Planning Permission
- Detached 3 Bed House
- And Garage

£69,000

TREFLACH



- Building Plot
- Full Plan Permission
- For Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedroom Detached

£79,995



TOWN & COUNTRY

PROPERTY AUCTIONS

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To be entered into our next auction on
20th February 2014

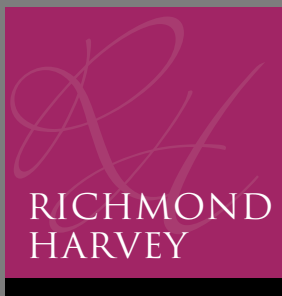
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Queens Park Gardens, Oswestry



Constructed during 2008 by reputable local builders KITWE developments, Richmond Harvey Properties are delighted to release to the market this modern 3 bedroom end terrace town house which enjoys a private position within this small exclusive development off Queens Road. Built to a high specification with allocated parking and a rear garden, early viewing is fully recommended to avoid disappointment. EPC RATING B.

Offers in Region of £139,950

Ascot Road, Oswestry



●●EARLY VIEWING RECOMMENDED●●
Enjoying a delightful position within this popular residential locality, Richmond Harvey Properties are delighted to release this most well appointed 4 bedroom detached family house which briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, First Floor Landing, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Three Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Gas Fired Central Heating, Double Glazing, Double Width Driveway, Garage, Gardens to Front and Rear. EPC RATING C.

Offers in Region of £182,500



Kinnerley Lane, Kinnerley
An interesting opportunity to acquire a parcel of land extending to 2.2 acres (0.89 hectares) approx or thereabouts with PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED for the change of use for the siting of 4 holiday homes in accordance with the terms of the application Ref 12/03689/FUL, dated 25th June 2012.
Guide Price £300,000



Regents Court, Oswestry
●●FOR SALE WITH NO ONWARD CHAIN●● First floor retirement apartment conveniently placed for local town centre amenities with an on site house manager, lift, communal areas and resident parking. Further service charges will apply. Viewing fully recommended. EPC RATING C.
Offers in Region of £89,950



Morda Road, Oswestry
(approx 1666 sq m / 0.417 acres) enjoying a highly sought after location with FULL PLANNING PERMISSION granted Application No 13/01784/FUL for the erection of a truly spacious luxury four bedroom (All Bedrooms En-Suite) detached dormer bungalow with detached double garage. Early Viewing Recommended.
Guide Price £225,000



Lyys Close, Oswestry
Enjoying a pleasant tucked away position off Lyys Close cul-de-sac, Richmond Harvey Properties are instructed to sell this extended one bedroom semi detached bungalow which offers scope for improvement yet offers an ideal investment or first time buyer opportunity. No Onward Chain. EPC RATING E.
Offers in Region of £85,000



Rednal, West Felton
3 bedroom detached character cottage which enjoys extensive gardens and surrounding countryside views. The property has the benefit of being sold with No Onward Chain, Driveway providing ample off-road parking. Early Viewing Recommended By The Owners Agents. EPC RATING E.
Offers in Region of £330,000



Ifton Fields, St Martins
●●OFFERS INVITED ●● - Enjoying a pleasant cul-de-sac location a most well appointed and deceptively spacious 2 bed mid terrace property which needs to be viewed to appreciate the excellent accommodation. EPC RATING C.
Offers Over of £112,000



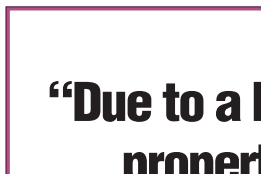
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Offers Over of £112,000



Ifton Fields, St Martins
●●OFFERS INVITED ●● - Enjoying a pleasant cul-de-sac location a most well appointed and deceptively spacious 2 bed mid terrace property which needs to be viewed to appreciate the excellent accommodation. EPC RATING C.
Offers Over of £112,000



Boot Street, Whittington
Character semi detached cottage comprising: Entrance Hall, Lounge with feature fireplace, Attractive Kitchen/Dining Room, First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Fired Central Heating, Car Port, Parking and Garden. Viewing Fully Recommended. EPC RATING E.
Offers in Region of £162,950



Balmoral Cres, Oswestry
5 bed det family house comprises: Entrance Hall, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Garden Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, Study/Play Room, First Floor Landing, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Annexes Inner Hall, Bedroom 4/Sitting Room Ensuite/Kitchen which could be converted into a 5th Bedroom if required. EPC RATING D.
Offers in region of £199,950



Balmoral Cres, Oswestry
5 bed det family house comprises: Entrance Hall, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Garden Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, Study/Play Room, First Floor Landing, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Annexes Inner Hall, Bedroom 4/Sitting Room Ensuite/Kitchen which could be converted into a 5th Bedroom if required. EPC RATING D.
Offers in region of £199,950



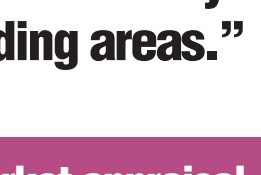
Balmoral Cres, Oswestry
5 bed det family house comprises: Entrance Hall, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Garden Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom, Study/Play Room, First Floor Landing, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Annexes Inner Hall, Bedroom 4/Sitting Room Ensuite/Kitchen which could be converted into a 5th Bedroom if required. EPC RATING D.
Offers in region of £199,950



S.S.T.C
Milars Field, Morda
2 bed bungalow which enjoys an edge of village location comprising: Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, DG, Gas Fired CH, Garden and Two Allocated Parking Spaces. EPC RATING D.
Offers in Region of £139,950



S.S.T.C
Milars Field, Morda
2 bed bungalow which enjoys an edge of village location comprising: Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, DG, Gas Fired CH, Garden and Two Allocated Parking Spaces. EPC RATING D.
Offers in Region of £139,950



S.S.T.C
Milars Field, Morda
2 bed bungalow which enjoys an edge of village location comprising: Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, DG, Gas Fired CH, Garden and Two Allocated Parking Spaces. EPC RATING D.
Offers in Region of £139,950



S.S.T.C
Milars Field, Morda
2 bed bungalow which enjoys an edge of village location comprising: Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, DG, Gas Fired CH, Garden and Two Allocated Parking Spaces. EPC RATING D.
Offers in Region of £139,950



S.S.T.C
Belle Vue, Morda
3 bedroom semi detached house with Gas Fired Central Heating, PVC Double Glazing, Driveway and off-road parking to front and rear, garage and low maintenance gardens. Viewing fully recommended. EPC RATING C.
Offers in region of £135,000



S.S.T.C
Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant
●●OFFERS INVITED●● Tastefully improved 3 bedroom character attached cottage which is set in just under 1 acre approx of neatly landscaped cottage style gardens, natural wildlife paddock and driveway with range of useful outbuildings. EPC RATING E.
Offers in Region of £274,500



S.S.T.C
Llanarmon Rd, Glyn Ceiriog
A most deceptively spacious 4 double bedroom semi detached character cottage enjoying a pleasant edge of village location with generous elevated rear garden which enjoys most delightful roof top views over the village and hillside beyond. VIEWING FULLY RECOMMENDED. EPC RATING F.
Offers in Region of £157,950



S.S.T.C
Meadowbrook Court
2 bed retirement bungalow benefits from additional care facilities if required within this purpose built development with well tended communal gardens and private rear courtyard, driveway and garage. No Onward Chain. EPC RATING D.
Offers in Region of £106,950



Y Ddol, Penybontfawr
3 bed det bungalow, enjoying a pleasant cul-de-sac location and delightful countryside views to the rear elevation. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Utility, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Oil Fired Central Heating, Oak PVC Double Glazing, Fascias and Soffits. EPC RATING D.
Offers in Region of £207,000



Moors Lane, St Martins
Period 3 storey residence which benefits from an extensive rear garden and detached barn with certificate of proposed lawful use or development for conversion to ancillary living accommodation, which would provide an annexe or residential/holiday let potential. Ample parking provision and Garage. EPC RATING F.
Offers in Region of £295,000



College Road, Oswestry
Enjoying a pleasant edge of town location, 4 bedroom detached dormer bungalow with: PVC Double Glazing and Gas Fired Central Heating where stated, Driveway, Garage, Workshop, Summerhouse and Storage Sheds, Gardens to Front and Rear. EPC RATING D.
Offers in Region of £189,950



Tregarthen Lane, Pant
Impressive 4/5 bedroom detached period residence which comprises: High Spec Fitted Kitchen opening into a lovely snug room with log burner and dining room, Further reception room/office, Ground Floor Bedroom and Shower Room, Master Bedroom with Dressing Area and Ensuite, Det. Double Garage. EPC RATING D.
Price Guide £495,000

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EPC RATING G AND D
Offers Over £795,000



NEW
Oswestry 41 Morda Close
4 BED DET HOUSE
CINEMA ROOM
LOWER GROUND FLOOR
EPC RATING C
OIRO £594,950



St Martins The Old Post Office
DETACHED HOUSE
FORMER POST OFFICE
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £334,950



NEW PRICE
Llansantffraid Glanvyrnwy House
4 BED DETACHED
NO CHAIN
EPC RATING D
CAR PORT
ASKING PRICE £325,000



NEW PRICE
Treflach Wddyn Cottage
3 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EN SUITE MASTER BEDROOM
EPC RATING F
OIRO £269,950



Oswestry The Matrons House
3 BED DETACHED HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £269,950



Selattyn Rock House
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/ DINER
EPC RATING D
OIRO £269,950



NEW
Treflach Plot 1 Morrin
4 BED DET HOUSE
NEW BUILD
EN SUITE MASTER BEDROOM
EPC RATING TBC
£269,950



NEW
Oswestry 41 Oakhurst Road
3 BED TERRACED HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £224,950



Maesbury Marsh Oakdene
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING F
OIRO £214,950



NEW
Oswestry 20 Croeswylan Crescent
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £214,950



Morda 16 Sweeney Drive
4 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £199,950



NEW
Oswestry 59 Hampton Road
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
SINGLE GARAGE
EPC RATING E
ASKING PRICE £194,950



Llansilin Berwynfa
3 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
PVC DOUBLE GLAZING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £189,950



Oswestry 51 Henley Drive
4 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
UTILITY
EPC RATING C
OIRO £179,950



NEW
Pant Spring Cottage
3 BED DET COTTAGE
FORMER POST OFFICE
PERIOD FEATURES
EPC RATING F
OIRO £174,950



Oswestry 88 Middleton Road
3 BED DET HOUSE
NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
£159,999



Morda 2 Sweeney Drive
3 BED DET HOUSE
KITCHEN/ DINER
EN SUITE MASTER BEDROOM
EPC RATING C
OIRO £159,950



NEW PRICE
Oswestry Easton Glebe
3 BED DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING F
OFFERS OVER £159,950



Oswestry 12 Beresford Gardens
2 BED MID TERRACE
NO CHAIN
MODERN KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING C
OIRO £154,950



Whittington Wakefield Villa
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
PLANNING TO EXTEND
EPC RATING E
£149,950



Oswestry 41 Windsor Road
3 BED SEMI DET BUNGALOW
KITCHEN/DINER
SHOWER ROOM
EPC RATING C
OIRO £149,950



NEW
Oswestry 15 Cae Melin Avenue
3 BED TERRACED HOUSE
LOUNGE/DINER
TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
EPC RATING C
OIRO £149,950



Oswestry 14 Roundwood Close
2 BED DET BUNGALOW
LIVING ROOM/ DINER
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £147,500



NEW
Oswestry 43 Aston Way
2 BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
ASKING PRICE £139,950



NEW
Llanfyllin 14 Bron Y Gaer
4 BED TERRACED HOUSE
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £139,950



NEW
Ruyton Xi Towns 23 Arundel Close
2 BED END TERRACE
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
MODERN KITCHEN
EPC RATING D
OIRO £136,500



NEW
St Martins 22 Coopers Field
3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE
UTILITY/STORE ROOM
FAMILY PARKING
EPC RATING E
OIRO £124,950



St Martins 2 New Terrace
2 BED MID TERRACE
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £117,500



NEW PRICE
Llanfyllin Random Cottage
2 BED DET PROPERTY
NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/DINER
EPC RATING E
OIRO £99,950



NEW
Oswestry 9 Upper Lord Street
2 BED END TERRACE HOUSE
NO CHAIN
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £84,950



NEW PRICE
Oswestry 49 & 49a Albert Road
TWO ONE BED APARTMENTS
NO CHAIN
EPC RATING E
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
OIRO £97,950



Oswestry Abraham Court
1 BED APARTMENT
RETIREMENT PROPERTY
EPC RATING B
COMMUNAL GARDEN/LIVING ROOM
OIRO £79,950



NEW PRICE
Gobowen 1 Meadowbrook Court
1 BED SEMI-DET BUNGALOW
LIVING/DINING ROOM
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OPEN TO OFFERS £79,950

LETTINGS

49 ALBERT ROAD, OSWESTRY. 1 BED FLAT	£300 PCM
CEFNUCHA, LLANSANTFFRAID. 2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE.....	£425 PCM
19 SCHOOL ROAD, WEST FELTON. 2 BED TERRACED HOUSE.....	£450 PCM
4 CAMPBELL CLOSE, OSWESTRY. 2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE.....	£475 PCM
42 HEATHER CLOSE, OSWESTRY. 2 BED SEMI DET HOUSE.....	£475 PCM
32 FERRERS ROAD, OSWESTRY. 3 BED TERRACED HOUSE.....	£495 PCM
85 MAPLE AVENUE, OSWESTRY. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE.....	£495 PCM
15 CHERRY TREE DRIVE, OSWESTRY. 3 BED SEMI DET HOUSE.....	£495 PCM
19 HERITAGE WAY, LLANYMYNECH. 4 BED TOWN HOUSE.....	£550 PCM



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Tenancy
Administration fee
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Halls 1845

NEW



The property offers extremely well designed and well proportioned internal accommodation located in a sought after village location.

- 5 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- 3 Reception Rooms
- DG & Gas CH
- Summer House
- Detached Garage & Parking
- Superb Rear Lawned Gardens

Boot Street, Whittington
Price: Offers over £345,000

Contact Oswestry

NEW



This immaculate detached four bedroom family home must be viewed to be appreciated. With views overlooking to fields and woodland in the distance, this property is situated in a popular quiet area.

- 4 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- Gas CH & UPVC DG
- Gardens
- Garage & Parking
- 1 Mile From A483
- Current EPC Rating C

Long Croft, Weston Rhyn
Price: £210,000

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN




A second floor one bedroom retirement apartment situated within a complex with Resident House Manager situated within easy level walking distance of the town centre.

- 1 Bed Apartment
- Located On Second Floor
- Walking Distance To Town
- Communal Gardens & Parking
- Communal Lounge
- EPC Rating

Abraham Court, Oswestry
Price: £69,995

Contact Oswestry



A unique detached equestrian family home with annex set in excess of 9 acres and featuring a range of useful outbuildings, stabling, workshops, garaging and barn.

- 4 Bedrooms To Main House With 2 En-Suites & Dressing Rooms
- 3 Bedroom Annex
- Country Lane Position
- Range Of Outbuildings
- Set In Excess Of 9 Acres
- Current EPC Rating D

The Slades, West Felton
Price: Offers over £825,000

Contact Oswestry



This delightful detached 1960's spacious bungalow is situated in an pleasant elevated location with views of the open countryside.

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Popular Hamlet Location
- Garage & Ample Parking
- Gardens & 2 Ponds
- Current EPC Rating D

Derwen Deg, Chirk Bank
Price: £249,950

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN



This newly built property has its NHBC guarantee until December 2018 is sympathetically designed to mirror the original Tithe Barn which stood on the site in the 1600's.

- 3 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- Garage With Useful First Floor
- Ideal Potential Annex
- South Facing Side Garden
- Parking
- Current EPC Rating C

Tithe Barn, Llansilin
Price: £249,950

Contact Oswestry

NO CHAIN




This spacious detached bungalow benefits from a view over the cul de sac and over Oswestry town, with private rear gardens and three bedrooms.

- Master Bedroom With En-Suite & Dressing Room
- Gas CH & UPVC DG
- In Need Of Slight Modernisation
- Garden To Front & Rear
- Detached Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating D

Hampton Fields, Oswestry
Price: £249,950

Contact Oswestry




This first floor three bedroom apartment benefits from views to the Castle Ruins, across the playing fields and to the Church in the distance

- 3 Bedroom Apartment
- Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Village Location
- Garden
- Current EPC Rating D

Birch Grove, Ruyton XI Towns
Price: £92,500

Contact Oswestry



A four bedroom detached family home offering adaptable and versatile accommodation set in 1.670 acres and located down a quiet country lane

- 4 Bed Property
- Annex Or Holiday Let Potential
- Brook, Woodland & Pasture
- Range Of Outbuildings
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating D

White House, Kinnerley
Price: £374,950

Contact Oswestry

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PANT



Individually designed highly appointed three bed detached house

- Oil Fired CH, D/G
- Lounge & Study
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Sun Room
- Bathroom & En-Suite
- Garage & Car Parking
- Good Sized Garden
- Plot
- Extensive Views
- EPC Band C

JJD782

£420,000

PARK HALL, NR. OSWESTRY




- GFCH & D/G
- Dining Kitchen
- Sitting Room
- Sun Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Large Attractive Garden
- Garage & Parking
- Occupying Quiet Position
- EPC Band - D

JJD820

£139,500

OSWESTRY



- GFCH & UPVC DG
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Near to local facilities
- EPC Band - D

JJD826

£149,750

PANT, NR. OSWESTRY



- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Entrance Porch
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Enclosed Front Garden
- Parking for 4/5 cars
- Workshop
- Includes B/Plot with Full P/P for Dwelling
- EPC Band F

JJD807

£350,000

ST. MARTINS



Detached House Occupying Pleasant Rural Position

- Opportunity for further improvement
- GFCH
- D/G & Secondary D/G
- Sitting Room & Living Room
- Dining Kitchen
- 3 Good Sized Bedrooms
- Garaging
- Good Sized Garden
- EPC Band D

JJD805

£239,000

GOBOWEN




Close Care Residential Bungalow on Purpose Built Complex

- CH/DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- UPVC Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms
- Large Bathroom
- Cloakroom
- Garage
- Rear Enclosed Paved Yard
- EPC Band

JJD831

£109,000

LLYNCLYS, NR. OSWESTRY



- UPVC D/G Electric Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three Double Beds
- En-Suite Dressing Area
- Car Port and Garage
- Caravan Standing
- Views To Rodney's Pillar
- EPC Band E

JJD725

£250,000

PORTH-Y-WAEN




Exceptionally Well Appointed Country Property

- Central Heating & D/ Glazing
- 2 Good Sized Reception Rooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 3 Beds
- En-suite Bathroom
- Double Garaging and Workshop
- Attractive Garden And Small Paddock
- EPC Band E

JJD749

£274,500

RHOSYGADFA, NR. GOBOWEN




Most attractive award winning barn conversion

- 3 Reception Rooms
- 4 Beds & 2 Bathrooms
- 5 Acres
- Separate Cottage
- Useful Outbuilding
- Splendid views of countryside
- And Shropshire Union Canal
- EPC Band C

JJD716

GUIDE £575,000

OSWESTRY



- UPVC/D/G GFCH
- Cloakroom
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Kitchen & Utility
- 5 Beds 2 En-suite
- 2 Bathrooms
- Detached Double Garage
- Corner Plot
- EPC Band C

JJD828

£325,000

OSWESTRY



- Well Appointed Detached House
- GFCH & UPVC D/G
- Dining Kitchen
- Sitting Room
- Good Size Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Ample Parking
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Garage
- EPC Band - E

JJD812

£135,000

LLANFYLLIN



- OFCH UPVC D/G
- Cloakroom
- Two Reception
- Laundry Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite
- Terraced Garden
- EPC Band - E

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01691 652367**35 Bailey Street, Oswestry****Ellesmere 01691 622534****Chirk****01691 772443****Llangollen 01978 860346****Wrexham****01978 340000****NEW****Whittington Road
Oswestry****£149,995**

- A deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Town House situated in a popular position
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Dining/Sitting Rm, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Cellar
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room
- 2 further Double Bedrooms and large Family Bathroom
- In an elevated position, rear garden extending to approx. 80 feet
- Gas Central Heating. EPC Rating E

**NEW - NO CHAIN****The Cross
Gobowen****£249,995**

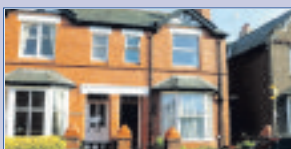
- Period Detached house extensively renovated by the current owners
- Entrance Hall, Cellar, Lounge, Family Room, Study, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility, Cloakroom, Master Bedroom (En-Suite)
- 3 further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Good size garden to the rear and ample off-road parking to the front
- Gas fired central heating is installed. EPC Rating E

**NEW - NO CHAIN****Upper Brook Street
Oswestry****£109,995**

- A delightful 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace property
- Situated in a popular residential area
- Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Large garden to the rear which extends to nearly 150 feet
- Private parking to the rear. Gas Central Heating. EPC Rating D

**NEW - NO CHAIN****The Cross
Weston Rhyn****£189,995**

- A spacious 3 Bedroom End-Terrace Property
- Formerly the Doctor's Surgery dating back to the late 1800's
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Dining/Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Cloakroom, Cellar, 2 Double Bedrooms, Wet Room
- Second Floor Master Suite with En-Suite Shower Room
- Excellent garden to rear with flowering beds & mature shrubs
- Double glazing and oil fired central heating. EPC Rating E

**NEW - NO CHAIN****Victoria Street
Oswestry****£120,000**

- A most spacious and well located Semi Detached House
- Situated in a prime location close to the Town Centre
- Entrance Hall, Sitting Room with Bay, Living/Dining Room
- Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Gas fired central heating, garden to the rear. EPC Rating D

**SSTC****The Terraces
Morda****£119,500**

- A spacious 2 Bedroom End-of-Terrace Property
- Fully modernised to the highest of standards views over open countryside
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, recently fitted Kitchen
- 2 Double Bedrooms and a recently fitted Bathroom
- Good size plot with off-road parking & 2 useful outbuildings
- Gas C/H, uPVC D/G. EPC Rating E

**Hampton Rise
Oswestry****£249,995**

- Immaculately presented 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow set in a corner plot
- 'L' shaped Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room
- 3 Further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom with Wet Room area
- Landscaped gardens with raised terraced area, single garage & 2 driveways
- uPVC double glazing and gas fired central heating. EPC Rating D

**NEW****Berllan Close
Weston Rhyn****£209,995**

- Superbly appointed Detached Family House
- Situated within walking distance of the centre of Weston Rhyn
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom
- 4 Excellent Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom.
- Oil fired C/H, uPVC D/G & spacious gardens. EPC Rating D

**NEW BUILD - NO CHAIN****Chirk Road
Gobowen****£214,995**

- A Brand New Detached 4 Bedroom Family Home
- A full 10 year NHBC Guarantee & carpeting throughout
- Cloaks, Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- Separate Dining Area, Conservatory, Utility
- 4 Excellent Bedrooms (master en-suite) & Luxury Family Bathrm
- Ample parking, deceptively spacious rear garden & patio area
- Gas C/H, D/G. Predicted Energy Assessment B

**NO CHAIN****Gyrn Road
Selattyn****£209,995**

- A recently completed 4 bedroom family home in the popular village of Selattyn
- Ent Hall, Ground Floor Shower Room, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Rm, Utility
- Master Bedroom (en-suite) & 3 further Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom
- Private, low maintenance gardens & off road parking
- uPVC double glazing and Oil C/H throughout. EPC Rating B

**Rectory Terrace
Welsh Frankton****£150,000**

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 4 Bedroom End-Terrace Property
- Standing in terraced gardens and grounds extending to 0.22 acre
- Stunning views over open countryside towards Rodney's Pillar
- Sun Room, Cloaks, Living/Dining Room, Kitchen, Lounge
- 4 Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Externally a raised patio area takes full advantage of the views
- Formal gardens and vegetable plots. Oil C/H. D/G. EPC Rating E

**NO CHAIN****Ifton Fields
St. Martins****£124,995**

- A well appointed and deceptively spacious Semi-Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Cloakroom, Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- uPVC double glazing and gas central heating. EPC Rating D
- Private rear garden together with a large side garden
- Which could accommodate an extension to the property (subject to planning permission).

**Station Road
Weston Rhyn****£139,950**

- A spacious and well appointed 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached property
- Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Living Room, Conservatory, Kitchen with Dining Area
- 3 Bedrooms, En-Suite and a Family Bathroom.
- Hard wood double glazing, gas fired central heating. EPC Rating C
- With ample parking to the front and paved gardens to the rear

**Cambrian Avenue
Whittington****£147,500**

- A most delightful spacious and extended Semi-Detached House
- Sitting Room, Snug, Kitchen, Landing, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom.
- Delightful gardens to the fore with ample parking for several cars
- Fully enclosed south facing rear garden and with views
- Gas fired central heating, Double Glazing, EPC Rating C

**Hampton Road
Oswestry****£445,000**

- A spacious Detached Family Residence situated in a one of Oswestry's premier residential locations
- The property has been finished to the highest of standards
- Entrance Hall, Study, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Garden Room, Utility & Cloak Room
- 4 Ensuite Bedrooms, 2 other Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Large Attic
- The property stands in well stocked landscaped gardens with a raised patio. Garage with tarmac driveway. Gas C/H. EPC Rating E

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Help is at hand for buyers at pair of stylish developments

Pickstock Homes has almost 30 years' experience in building quality homes in Shropshire and are now authorised agents for the Government's Help to Buy scheme. Help to Buy equity loans are open to both first-time buyers and home movers on new-build properties in England worth up to £600,000.

The scheme works by the homeowner contributing at least five per cent of the property price. The Government will then loan up to 20 per cent of the property's value, interest free for the first five years, enabling the buyer to secure a deposit.

Pickstock Homes currently have some great properties for sale close to Oswestry and Telford town centres.

The Stables, Randlay Avenue, Telford

Perfect for first time buyers, these one and two-bedroom apartments on Randlay Avenue are a part of the Randlay regeneration scheme. With the Help to Buy initiative you can move in with as little as £3,498 deposit (based on a one bed apartment).

All rooms are generous in size and feature an open plan kitchen, living and dining area with Juliet balcony. All apartments have parking for residents, gas central heating and are all double glazed. The apartments are in a great location close to Telford town centre. Take a look at our website for further images of the property!

The Carriages, Oswestry

The Carriages on Gobowen Road, Oswestry are within five minutes walking distance of the town centre. With the Help to Buy scheme you can move into a property at The Carriages for as little as £5,750 deposit (based on a two-bedroom apartment).

The development consists of two-bedroom apartments and three-bedroom town houses built to a high specification throughout.



The Carriages development, Gobowen Road, Oswestry, offers a range of stylish town houses and apartments

The living areas are extremely spacious due to their open plan design. The master bedroom is spacious with room for a double bed and snug area, it also has an ensuite shower room and balcony that takes in views of Oswestry and the surrounding countryside.

The second bedrooms are also a great size, as is the third bedroom in the town houses - these rooms are ideal for a home office or playroom.

The family bathroom is fully tiled with modern chrome

fittings giving a clean and contemporary look. What is really special about the three-bedroom town houses is that they span three storeys and boast floor-to-ceiling glazing.

Other benefits are the security entry system, intercom and TV and satellite points in all rooms. There is also a cloakroom and all properties have gas central heating. For further information visit www.pickstockhomes.com or call 01691 677940.



A spacious open plan living/dining room



This stylish bedroom has patio doors to a balcony



The one and two-bedroom apartments on Randlay Avenue are perfect for first-time buyers

Residential Sales



Llanfechain, Powys

Beautiful Grade II Listed Tudor Farmhouse together with separate cottage, outbuildings and panoramic views

2 Reception Rooms. Kitchen. Breakfast Area. Study. 3 Double Bedrooms. Dressing Room. 2 Bathrooms. Two Bedroom Cottage.

Stable Block. Tack Room. Original Cruck Barn. Garage. Tennis Court. Gardens. JA Strutt & Parker



About 1.7 acres

Guide Price £650,000

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FINE & COUNTRY

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**Betws-Y-Coed****£475,000**

A substantial detached 5 bedroom house, currently run as a 4 star guest house with camping facilities, set in about 2 acres of grounds with far reaching views, which include a stone built swimming pool block with changing rooms which could easily be converted into an annexe of further letting units (subject to the necessary consents). NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:TBC

Welshpool: 01938 531006**Morton, Oswestry****£650,000**

Linden House is an immaculate, detached 3/4 bedroom gentleman's residence, believed to have been built in 1850 as a curate's house, which has been sympathetically and tastefully improved by the current owners to create a stunning home. The house is extremely well presented and is in fantastic order throughout and provides great flexibility on how the accommodation can be used and also includes a completely self-contained two bedroom annexe ideal for an elderly relative or it could be let out to provide additional income. EPC: E & D.

Welshpool: 01938 531006

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- LIFESTYLE VENDOR INTERVIEWS WITH A PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST



Call 01938 531006 to arrange your Market Appraisal

**Penybontfawr****£499,995**

A Grade II listed detached former Vicarage with detached cottage situated in the village of Penybontfawr with glorious views. The light and airy accommodation consists of well-proportioned rooms throughout the house with comfortable and flexible living accommodation. The detached cottage would make an ideal holiday let, with plenty of character and an abundance of exposed beams, or alternatively could be let out on a longer term basis. The cottage has a separate access from the road which certainly enhances its letting potential. The gardens consist mostly of level lawns and there is plenty of parking space for a number of vehicles.

Welshpool: 01938 531006**Meifod, Nr Welshpool****£399,000**

A beautiful timber framed period former farmhouse situated in an idyllic location with gardens running down to a pool and views over surrounding fields and countryside. Set within 4.9 acres of land is this superb smallholding ideal for Equestrian use or from which to run a rural business. The brick farm buildings have planning permission for conversion into two residential dwellings. EPC: E

Welshpool: 01938 531006

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Llangollen, Clwyd

Two upland grassland farms in the stunning Ceiriog Valley extending to approximately 418 acres (169 ha) comprising: Grade II listed three bed farmhouse, traditional stone barns, gardens, modern portal frame building, pasture land 342 acres (138 ha). Four bed farmhouse with one bed annexe, outbuildings, mixed woodland 61 acres (25 ha). EPC Ratings: F For sale as a whole or in lots

For further details contact Roger Parry & Partners LLP, 01691 655334

Joint Agent: Carter Jonas LLP 01938 210171

Guide Price: £22,000,000



Cross Lanes, Melverley

An attractive, extremely spacious detached family house, having LP gas CH, uPVC DG, detached quad garage, summer house/cabin, magnificent gardens, paddock and wildlife area. The whole amounting in all to approx 1.8 acres or thereabouts. This wonderful property occupies a truly delightful rural position with magnificent views over adjoining countryside and is easily accessible to Oswestry, Welshpool and Shrewsbury. Magnificent reception hall, living room, sitting room/dining room, large kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, WC/cloaks, large landing, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, three further bedrooms and family bathroom. EPC Band: F

Guide Price: £429,500

3608



NO CHAIN



Llanrhaeadr YM, Oswestry

A detached stone built period cottage dating back to the early 19th century with later extensions, creating a character but contemporary family home. Entrance hall, open plan sitting room/dining room leading into kitchen, snug with inglenook fireplace, small study, utility room and downstairs cloakroom. Primary staircase to master bedroom with en-suite shower room, two further double bedrooms and re-fitted bathroom; secondary staircase to landing leading to further double bedroom. The property is set in three acres (TBC) with delightful open outlooks and has a range of outbuildings including stabling. EPC Band: E

Guide Price: £420,000

3609



Babbinswood, Nr Ellesmere

An attractive farmhouse of great charm and character in need of some modernisation with great potential to form a first class family property, standing in good sized gardens with two paddocks adjacent to the garden, in all extending to approximately three acres. Hall, dining room, sitting room, farmhouse style kitchen, back kitchen/utility room, cloakroom, workshop/playroom, master bedroom, dressing room, en-suite, bedroom 2, bedroom 3, bathroom, attic room 1/bedroom 4, attic room 2/bedroom 5. EPC Band: G

Guide Price: £395,000



Llangedwyn, Powys

An appealing detached stone country property in a magnificent rural location close to the Estate village of Llangedwyn. The property sits in approximately 1.12 acres (0.45 ha) of grounds which includes a small arboretum, lawns to the side and rear of the property, impressive courtyard with feature stone walls, arch and well. Hall, dining room, kitchen, snug, utility, drawing room, sun room, boot room/ gun room, bathroom/cloakroom, three bedrooms, bedroom 4/study, en-suite bathroom, gallery, garage/store. EPC Band: F For further details contact 01691 655334.

Guide Price: £385,000



Maesbrook, Oswestry

A delightful period property set in 1.75 acres of gardens, established vegetable plots and paddocks. Originally a small detached cottage, having been considerably extended to provide an extremely spacious family home. Occupying a rural position adjoining open countryside in a quiet location about 3/4 of a mile down a country lane yet easily accessible to the main road. Hall, main reception hall, family room/study, sitting room, very large kitchen/dining room, utility room, ground floor shower room, four bedrooms, office/bedroom 5, family bathroom. Brick & timber store sheds, Dutch barn, garage. EPC Band: F

Guide Price: £379,950

3545



Ardleen, Llanymynech

An exceptionally spacious detached family bungalow, having oil CH, DG, extra large double garage, parking for numerous vehicles, very good sized gardens. It occupies a pleasant position in the village having a range of local amenities and is conveniently placed for access to Welshpool, Oswestry and Shrewsbury. It also enjoys rooftop views to the front towards Long Mountain. The well proportioned accommodation comprises: porch, large reception hall, superb living room, large dining room, farmhouse style kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, study, rear hall, WC, very long inner hallway, four huge double bedrooms, en-suite shower room, very large family bathroom. EPC Rating: TBC

Guide Price: £375,000

3614



Pontrobert, Meifod

A charming mid 16th century detached Grade II Listed cottage with gardens to the front, rear and side, set on the outskirts of a delightful and popular village. Hall, dining room, snug/office, kitchen, utility/cloaks, sitting room, landing/sitting area, three double bedrooms, family bathroom. Ample parking, stone & slate workshop, brick & slate store, enclosed gardens. EPC Band: F For further information contact Agents on 01691 655334.

Guide Price: £338,000

2856



Llangedwyn, Oswestry

The Green Inn is situated on the B4396 road which runs between Oswestry and Bala in the Tanat Valley renowned for its natural beauty. The Tanat Valley is on the Wales/England border and the Berwyn mountain range is within easy travelling distance. It is ideally located for local trade and tourist traffic also to the area, and provides licensed accommodation on the ground and first floor, along with private living accommodation. EPC Band: F Contact Agents on 01691 655334.

Guide Price: £325,000



Maesbrook, Oswestry

A delightful character country property dating back to early 1800's renovated to a very high standard, situated in a secluded location with views to the Vyrnwy and Morda Brook. Set in a secluded rural location, the property enjoys considerable seclusion and privacy. Breakfast kitchen, pantry, utility room, conservatory, living room, study, dining room, four double bedrooms, family bathroom. Garden extends to approx 1/3 of an acre, ample parking space, double garage with loft space and engine pit. EPC Band: D. For further details contact 01691 655334.

Guide Price: £365,000

3547



COMMERCIAL UNITS

Broad Street, Welshpool

First floor single office unit with shared kitchen and W.C. amounting to 14.25m² (153ft²)

Severn Street, Welshpool

Prominent lockup shop unit with street frontage and sales area of 53.6m² (577ft²)

Coedway, Shrewsbury

A mixture of units in various sizes suitable for small businesses in a friendly business park

Meifod, Powys

Variety of office spaces available in a modern, environmentally friendly barn conversion

Further Welshpool office space available

Contact 01938 554499 for more information on any of the above properties



Off Gungrog Road, Welshpool

A modernised and extremely spacious, five bedroom, semi-detached family house with three bath/shower rooms, partial gas CH, uPVC DG, extra large garage, two large attic rooms and very large rear garden with timber range of buildings. It occupies a pleasant and very convenient position close to a wide range of local amenities and within walking distance of Welshpool town centre. Two reception halls, living room, kitchen/dining room, family room, ground floor shower room, split level landing, five bedrooms, en-suite shower room, family bathroom, and two very large second floor attic rooms. EPC Band: D

Guide Price: £219,000

3126



Four Crosses, Llanymynech

A large detached modern property, set in easily maintained gardens, offering spacious accommodation comprising: large through entrance hall, sitting room, large conservatory, dining room, eat in kitchen, utility room, downstairs WC, three double bedrooms, en-suite bathroom and family bathroom with separate shower. Oil CH, open fronted carport and easily positioned for local amenities and the towns of Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Welshpool. EPC Band: E

Guide Price: £169,050

2768



Lilac Grove, Oswestry

A well appointed and hugely extended, end of terrace house, uPVC DG, gas CH, and very large rear garden. It occupies a pleasant and very convenient position within short distance local amenities. The accommodation must be viewed to appreciate the size of this property: hall, large through living room, separate snug/family room, large L-shaped kitchen/dining room, three double bedrooms, en-suite shower room, family bathroom, separate WC. EPC Band: D

Guide Price: £139,999

2941



Gobowen, Oswestry

A spacious leasehold three bedroom first floor flat having gas CH, partial uPVC DG, garden with shed and two official parking spaces. The property occupies a convenient position in the centre of Gobowen, having a range of amenities within short distance. It is accessible to the railway station and Oswestry and within short driving distance of Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Ground floor entrance hall with stairs to large first floor landing, delightful living room, modern well equipped kitchen/breakfast room, good size bathroom with WC and three bedrooms. EPC Band: E

Guide Price: £115,000

3077



Middletown, Welshpool

An extremely well appointed and modern park home, only about one year old and having LP gas CH, uPVC DG, garden areas with shed, and communal parking. Entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom. Occupying a very pleasant and convenient position in the village of Middletown having a variety of local amenities, which is located midway between Welshpool and Shrewsbury. INSPECTION RECOMMENDED

Guide Price: £68,000

2382



BUILDING PLOT

Church Road, Welshpool

An excellent opportunity to acquire a town centre building plot with outline planning consent to construct a dwelling, with parking and turning, and rear garden area. The plot provides the opportunity to create an individually designed dwelling within the town's conservation area within convenient walking distance of all the town centres amenities and facilities. For further details contact 01938 554499.

POA

3128



Bailey Street, Oswestry

- A refurbished top floor apartment
- Situated in the centre of Oswestry
- Kitchen, lounge
- Double bedroom, bathroom
- EPC Rating: D
- Available now

£365 pcm

R0651



Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry

- A charming end of terrace property
- In a quiet village location close to Oswestry
- Hall, sitting room, kitchen
- Downstairs bathroom, two bedrooms
- Small garden, oil CH
- EPC Band: E
- Available now

£400 pcm

R0653



Maesbury Marsh, Oswestry

- A charming mid terrace property
- Situated in a quiet village location
- Sitting room, dining room, kitchen
- Two bedrooms, family bathroom
- Parking, small garden, oil CH
- EPC Band: E
- Available now

£400 pcm

R0652



Crickheath, Oswestry

- A detached mature double fronted property
- Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen
- Small utility/boiler room, downstairs WC
- 3 bedrooms, family bathroom
- Parking, garage, small paddock with store & stable
- Further land available by separate negotiation
- EPC Band: D. Available Now

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R0638

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New car

Alfa MiTo Subtle changes



Sharon Walters
Motoring editor

s.walters@shropshirestar.co.uk

The 2014 Alfa MiTo offers customers higher specification, revised interiors, subtle styling enhancements and even more advanced technologies, including the Uconnect™ five-inch, colour touch-screen infotainment system as standard equipment and the addition of the new 105hp TwinAir engine to the range.

Externally the 2014 MiTo benefits from a new, chromed front grille; titanium grey

headlamp and tail lamps surrounds; tinted rear windows and a sports rear bumper, as well as a revised colour palette that now includes a new "Matte Magnesio Grey" finish.

The interior is thoroughly revised with new dashboards, upgraded plastics and a new Uconnect™ five-inch, touch-screen infotainment system with voice recognition, Bluetooth, steering wheel remote controls, USB/Aux ports and optional satellite navigation.

A comprehensive array of traction, braking and stability control systems is standard on all Alfa MiTo models and these systems, along with steering effort and throttle response, can be adjusted via Alfa Romeo's trademark ALFA D.N.A. three-mode selectable driving mode system. Where fitted, ALFA SDC adaptive suspension and ALFA TCT transmission settings are also adjustable via the ALFA D.N.A. system.

The model line-up has been streamlined with



The interior is fully revised with new dashboards, upgraded plastics and touch-screen infotainment system

four trim levels now available: Sprint, Distinctive, Sportiva and Quadrifoglio Verde (QV).

In addition to the features listed above, all models are equipped with Start& Stop; air conditioning; a leather-trimmed steering wheel and gear knob; electric windows and mirrors; seven airbags; front fog lamps, a rear spoiler and alloy wheels.

Performance

"Distinctive" highlights include 17-inch alloy wheels; cruise control; rear parking sensors and a front centre arm rest, while "Sportiva" includes 18-inch QV sports alloy wheels; a QV steering wheel and hand-brake lever (trimmed in black leather with green stitching); satin-effect exterior highlights and special badges.

The high-performance QV adds red, four-piston Brembo brake callipers, SDC active suspension system, bespoke sports seats with special

uprated upholstery and special QV wing badges.

The MiTo engine range now comprises five turbo-charged engines, all with Start&Stop as standard – three petrol and two diesel units.

The 0.9 TwinAir Turbo engine benefits from a 20hp boost in performance – now 105hp – which translates to a 0-62mph time that's 1.1 seconds faster than the previous 85hp version. Despite the additional performance, the MiTo TwinAir remains impressively efficient, with a combined fuel economy figure of 67.3 mpg and CO2 emissions of just 99g/km.

The 1.4 TB MultiAir 135hp (available with a manual or the Alfa TCT twin dry clutch transmission) and the 1.4 TB MultiAir 170hp QV engine complete the petrol line-up, while the diesel range consists of the 1.3 JTDM-2 85hp and the 1.6 JTDM-2 120hp powerplants.

Prices for the 2014 Alfa Romeo MiTo start at £14,350 for the 105hp TwinAir Sprint.

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Dealer news

Peugeot 308

By David Banner

Budgen Motors held the all-new Peugeot 308's preview event on Tuesday 26th November but this highly important model is officially being launched here in the UK on Wednesday January 15.

However, the 308 is on display now inside Budgen Motors Peugeot showroom on Featherbed Lane, Shrewsbury where the dealership has a selection of demonstrators for you to test drive*.

A friendly sales team will be delighted to assist with your enquiry and you'll enjoy the pleasant, relaxed, no pressure atmosphere at the dealership.

Weather permitting, a special 'Peugeot Ride 'n Drive' experience is being planned for mid February, so to keep up to date with the latest news of this event visit Budgen Motors' facebook page or log onto www.budgenmotorcars.co.uk

The totally new 308 range is sleekly-styled, refined, superbly-equipped and great to drive, so

let's check out Peugeot's latest star car. With this latest generation model there's a focus on refinement, interior quality and efficiency. The best bit? It's a car that exudes a certain self-confidence and, yes, desirability.

New suspension makes for a smoother ride when the rear wheels hit ridges or bumps. The electrically-assisted power steering is geared towards ease of use rather than detailed feedback but perhaps that's just as well as it makes the 308 supremely comfortable around town.

The Peugeot 308 is available with a variety of highly efficient powerplants. The diesel engines are hugely economical while the three-cylinder petrol units are characterful and fun. The petrol engine line up opens with an 82bhp, 1.2-litre three-cylinder, then there's a choice of either 110 or 130bhp versions of this engine. The zippiest model is the 1.6-litre THP turbo with either 125 or 156bhp.

Go diesel and you're looking at a 1.6-litre turbodiesel, but there are various choices: the base 92bhp unit is cheapest but the 115bhp e-HDi variant is just as clean and frugal.

Even more efficient is the 'BlueHDi' 120bhp unit. The same 'BlueHDi' badge is worn by the single 2.0-litre diesel on offer, which develops 150bhp.

The first generation Peugeot 308 morphed into quite a good looking car and the latest model is even more handsome



Transmissions available include five and six-speed manuals or a six-speed torque-converter automatic.

The first generation 308 morphed into quite a good looking car and the latest model is even more handsome.

The front end features a sculpted bonnet and sharky headlights but there's a maturity, a confidence, about the styling.

It's not trying too hard and we like that.

Touchscreen

In all but most basic trim, the high quality interior is dominated by a 9.7-inch touchscreen. There's a small strip of buttons for locking, demist and hazard lights and then virtually everything else is controlled via the touchscreen, making for a very clean-looking and stylish interior.

The 308 gets the tiny steering wheel debuted on the 208 and the contra-rotating rev counter is a neat touch.

Space all round is more than adequate and the 470-litre boot is excellent.

The Peugeot 308 has quietly morphed into

something very slick, something quintessentially French, despite being benchmarked against a Golf.

The 308's laid-back demeanour and long-legged loping gait, attributes that hark back to classic Peugeots of the distant past, are qualities more in tune with the way we use cars today.

Budgen Motors' group fleet manager, Neal Shaw comments: "With its exceptional fuel economy, low emissions and class-competitive BiK rates, we're anticipating that Peugeot's new 308 will be of huge interest to both business users and retail customers."

So why not check out this important Peugeot model by visiting us at Budgen Motors Peugeot on Featherbed Lane, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 4NN? Do prepare to be impressed!"

Call 01743 445611 for more information and remember to look out for more news of the '308 Ride 'n Drive' event on its way in February by visiting the dealership's website or facebook page.

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the 308 range are: Urban 35.7 – 67.3 (7.9 – 4.2), Extra Urban 61.4 – 85.6 (4.6 – 3.3), Combined 48.7 – 78.5 (5.8 – 3.6) and CO2 134 – 95. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. On the road prices quoted include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty and £55 Government First Registration Fee.

Dealer news

Greenhous Group Award

By David Banner

Greenhous Group has been rated as having one of the UK's top franchised motor dealer websites in an extensive research project undertaken by Shropshire-based, Lane Eight Consulting and commissioned by publishers Auto Retail Network.

The project, which evaluated the websites of the UK's leading dealer groups, independent used car retailers and vehicle manufacturers, took a customer's point of view using desktop, tablet and smartphone devices to test a number of buying processes.

The research was carried out without the participants' knowledge – no one was aware of the results until the full report was published at Williams Formula 1 headquarters at the end of last year.

The test criteria were drawn up in conjunction with industry experts from Google, Trader Media Group and MotoNovo Finance in order to create the most relevant and refined scoring method.

Research shows that more than 90% of all new and used car leads start online so having a customer friendly internet presence is vital. Various website features were assessed including first impressions, social media, new car offers and booking a service or test drive. The tablet and Smartphone usability of the website was also analysed which is key in today's ever evolving development of portable devices.

"This was a challenging project," said Lane Eight director, Steve Johnson, "We reviewed more than 300 websites which involved scoring several thousand processes."

"Without doubt, car buyers now expect a dealer or manufacturer's website to be easy to navigate and allow them to complete their enquiry quickly and to deliver 100% satisfaction. As a whole, the motor industry is slowly catching up with other retail sectors, but there's still work to be done in order to meet 'want it now' and 'immediate response' expectations."

James Wilkes, head of e-commerce at Greenhous and pictured with Steve right, said: "It was fantastic to learn that we had been ranked equal third in the country for our franchise website. The team at Greenhous have worked incredibly hard over the past few



James Wilkes:
'It was fantastic to learn that we had been ranked equal third in the country for our franchise website'

years to make it what it is today and even making it into the top 50 list is an achievement in itself.

"The internet is an ever changing arena and as the report was carried out independently, with every dealer scored on the same criteria, we were very pleased with our performance."

"The report is really the first of its kind by focussing on manufacturers, dealer groups and used car retailers and ranking them in their individual categories, all in one place. It is great to see businesses rated solely on their website usability from a customer point of view, rather than focussing on the business side of things such as sales success. That is what makes this report so different."

James continued: "It has given businesses an insight into their competition from a completely different, ecommerce perspective and recognises those that are doing well in this particular field. We scored top marks in a number of features such as first impressions, new car features and how well the

site adapts to a tablet or smartphone. "With more and more people relying on their phones or tablets, it's no longer good enough to have a site that functions well on traditional desktop computers alone. The automotive industry is notoriously old fashioned when it comes to marketing and retailing which is why we are thrilled that our site scored so well on the tablet and Smartphone functionality, a retail channel that must be embraced."

James concluded: "The report was interesting, enlightening and strategically invaluable to the development of our online priorities and where we want to take our website in the future."

"We were up against some of the biggest retailers in the country so it is great that Greenhous are getting recognised along with the leaders in the market. The report confirmed that we are certainly on the right path and has also helped us to define some areas for development which we will be focussing on next year."



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New car

A Class comes into its own



Sharon Walters
Motoring editor

sharon.walters@
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Hands up, does anyone remember the story about the Elk and the Mercedes A-Class?

It's the tale of how the first A-Class had an inclination to topple over when braking hard in simulations to test how it fared if confronted with an elk wandering on Scandinavian roads. You do recall the story? Well that was way back in 1997.

Since then the A-Class has undergone various tweaks and upgrades but it has never really tempted buyers away from its rivals in the compact hatchback segment.

But the latest A-Class is certainly doing that and also working well in Mercedes' strategy to lower the average age of its buyers.

For a start it looks completely different from the original. The very first models were tall although that slightly changed over its last two incarnations.

But now it is something completely different. Lower and sleek and far more sporty with smoother lines. Inside it's not like your usual executive Mercedes either. It's user friendly and a little bit sassy.

One downside is that space in the rear seats is a little less generous than the old one although the boot is nice and roomy.

One of its biggest draws for the younger crowd are the latest up-to-date gadgets, standard and as add-ons. Top of the list is the option of full iPhone integration which means the driver or front seat passenger can sync music and keep right up to date with email and social media – Facebook and Twitter are right there in the car with you.

In a society where safety is becoming more and more important on our roads, the A-Class has as standard radar-based collision avoidance which applies maximum braking power if the driver fails to brake hard enough to avoid a vehicle.

There is also an optional Pre-Safe system which recognises when an accident is imminent.



One of its biggest draws for the younger crowd are the latest up-to-date gadgets

This came as standard on my A 220 CDI BlueEFFICIENCY AMG Sport model and I did experience it in operation, although in a controlled experiment.

I chose an empty car park, revved up accelerated and then slammed on the brakes as I swung the car round to the left. Sensing there could be an accident as the car was no longer under proper control, the windows were closed (an open sunroof would also be shut) and the passenger seat was moved to its safest position for possible impact – now that was weird feeling it move under you as the car spun.

The seat belt also tightens to give maximum tension, and that's something it does when you first get in the car and slide it into place.

I have to say it is the one thing I really don't like. And that is purely illogical. It is in the best interests of safety but makes me feel as if the car is taking away my control.

As standard you get ESP, Active Bonnet and Adaptive Break with HOLD function and Hill-Start

Assist, the radarbased Collision Prevention Assist, which alerts a distracted driver through visual and acoustic warnings, as well as priming the Brake Assist function.

There's a choice of turbo-charged direct injection four-cylinder diesel and petrol engines with power ranging from 107 to 208bhp and for company car drivers or those who think really green, the lowest emissions come in at 99g CO2/km. It's not something you expect from a Mercedes.

My 220 had 170 bhp with the seven speed double-clutch transmission and I really enjoyed driving it across country down to Wiltshire, up along the M25 to Heathrow Airport and then back up a rain-lashed M40 to the Midlands.

The A-Class attracted me from the outside, made me feel comfortable and at ease on the inside and gave me a great deal of enjoyment. For me there's no rival to better it in the segment.

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Amount of Credit	£18,220.00
Total Amount Payable	£23,306.00
Credit Acceptance Fee	£180.00
Purchase Activation Fee	£95.00
Fixed Interest Rate	5.22%
APR Representative	6.0%

Drayton Group

Mercedes-Benz of Shrewsbury Battlefield Road, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY1 4AB

01743 600151 www.draytongroup.co.uk



Mercedes-Benz

Official government fuel consumption figures in mpg (litres per 100km) for the A-Class range: urban 32.1(8.8)-67.3(4.2), extra urban 48.7(5.8)-88.3(3.2), combined 40.9(6.9)-78.5(3.6). CO2 emissions 161-92 g/km
†3 years free servicing only as per the Mercedes-Benz Service Care Package available on Mercedes-Benz retail sales on vehicles ordered between 01.01.2014 and 31.03.2014 and registered before 30.06.2014 excluding A-Class A45 AMG and with the exclusion of the A-Class Free Servicing Offer where registration must be made by 31.03.2014. *Annual mileage for the A 180 SE is 10,000 miles. Credit Acceptance Fee payable with first payment. Quotations are based on a 3 year PCP at 10,000 miles per annum. All quotations are subject to approval and vehicles must be ordered between 01.01.2014 and 31.03.2014 and registered before 30.06.2014, subject to availability. Excess mileage charges apply. All finance examples are 36 months and subject to the acceptance and purchase fees. Finance available from Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Ltd, MK15 8BA. Model images shown for demonstration purposes only. Finance subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required.

New cars

Hyundai i10

The new generation Hyundai i10 has been crowned 'Car of the Year' by car review website, CarBuyer. After scooping the 'Best City Car' category, it was awarded the overall title with the judges praising its quality, refinement, style and value.

Steve Fowler, editor-in-chief, Auto Express and CarBuyer, said: "The Hyundai i10 is small in stature and huge in talent. It offers so much for such a small price with real big car attributes – it's well built, spacious and with loads of luxury kit on board. It makes you wonder why you ever need to pay more for a new car."

CarBuyer.co.uk was launched just three years ago yet is already established as one of the UK's most respected sources of car buying advice.

Tony Whitehorn, president and CEO, Hyundai Motor UK, says: "We are tremendously proud that the new generation Hyundai i10 has been crowned CarBuyer's 'Car of the Year' for 2014."

This is Hyundai's second major CarBuyer win after the i30 received the same accolade in 2012. This award is a true tes-

tament to just how far the Hyundai brand has come in recent years."

It was a double win for Hyundai as the Santa Fe also won the 'Best Large SUV' category beating many other more established brands.

Buyers of the new generation i10 will be offered the highest levels of comfort and safety equipment, with many features more common to segments above. Available equipment such as automatic climate control, heated leather steering wheel and cruise control with speed limiter provide bigger-car comfort, while safety features include standard-fitment stability control and six airbags.

As with all Hyundai's passenger cars, the new generation i10 is backed by the brand's industry leading five year unlimited mileage warranty, which offers amongst the best warranty cover in the industry as judged by Auto Express. This includes five years unlimited mileage warranty, five years free roadside assistance and five years of annual vehicle health checks, which give customers ultimate peace of mind.

● The Hyundai i10 goes on sale in the UK from January 30 and J T Hughes has a special launch in the form of a ride and drive at its Oswestry and Telford sites on January 25.



Civic Tourer

Designed and developed in Europe, the British built Civic Tourer delivers distinctive styling, class-leading utility, advanced technology and an impressive balance between fuel economy and performance.

Prices will start from £20,265 on-the-road for the entry level 1.8 i-VTEC S model.

The Civic Tourer is available with a choice of two engines; the 1.8 i-VTEC petrol and the new Earth Dreams Technology 1.6 i-DTEC diesel and four trim levels. The entry level S grade includes features such as Bluetooth Hands Free Telephone (HFT), DAB Radio, USB connectivity and 16 inch alloy wheels. In addition the SE Plus, the next level up, has rear parking sensors and 17 inch alloys, whilst SR customers will benefit from the new world first rear Adaptive Damper System (ADS), front heated seats, HDD Navi and privacy glass. Those who opt for the top EX grade will receive headlight washer, smart entry and start capability, sunglasses holder, interior blue ambient lighting and Bi-HID headlights.

The new 1.6 i-DTEC diesel engine delivers exceptional fuel economy to help keep running costs low without compromising power and performance. A range of 817 miles on one tank of fuel and CO2 emissions from just 99g/km keeps the

car exempt from annual vehicle excise duty. Honda's 1.8 i-VTEC petrol engine will be available in both manual and automatic transmission and provides 142 PS and 174 Nm of torque, delivering 45.6mpg on the combined cycle and from 149 g/km of CO2 emissions.

The space inside the Tourer defies its dimensions. Despite being the lowest and most compact estate in the segment and being just 235mm longer than the Civic hatchback, the new Tourer offers a class-leading 624 litres of boot space. Utilising Honda's unique Magic Seat system, the rear seats can be pulled down to create a completely flat load area with 1668 litres of capacity up to the roof lining.

The significant luggage space is supported by the Tourer's newly developed rear Adaptive Damper System (ADS), a world first. The system automatically adjusts the rear suspension damping force designed to enhance stability and comfort under the varying load and driving conditions.

Another first is the option to add Honda's new suite of safety technologies to a C-segment car. Based on the philosophy of 'Safety for Everyone', this new suite of sensor based active safety systems uses a combination of cameras, short range lidar (laser radar) and radar, to deliver a high standard of safety in all conditions, giving drivers and passengers complete peace of mind.



New Generation i10

If it had ears,
they would be burning

High praise indeed from the big names in the motoring press. And they're not the only ones being complimentary about the New Generation i10. Available from 30th January 2014, it won't be long before you can have your say.

To find out more about the city car everyone's talking about, visit JT Hughes.



J T Hughes – Telford 01952 201017

Stafford Park1, Telford, Shropshire TF3 3BD www.jthugheshyundai-telford.co.uk



Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for New Generation i10 range: Urban 35.3 (8.0) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1) – 76.3 (3.7), Combined 45.6 (6.2) – 65.7 (4.3). CO2 Emissions 142 – 98 g/km. Fuel consumption figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results. 5 Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty terms and exclusions apply. Visit www.hyundai.co.uk/owning or ask your local dealer.

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Fuel consumption figures for Civic Tourer 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus in mpg (l/100km): Urban 67.3 (4.2), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 74.3 (3.8). CO₂ emissions: 99g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience. **Model Shown:** Civic Tourer 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £22,960 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic Tourer 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus Manual registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **The 5 Year Care Package includes:** Servicing: All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary HondaCare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,845 including VAT) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

deaths

FELLOWS

David Michael

Of Preston Street, Shrewsbury.

On December 30, 2013, aged 74 years.

Beloved Husband of Mary. Father of Helen and Edward. Grandfather of Emily and Sally.

Service at St Giles Church, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday, January 14, 2014, at 11.30am, followed by a private Family Interment at Clun Cemetery.

Family flowers only please.

Donations if wished will be divided equally between St Giles Church and Cross Roads Care, for which purpose a collection plate will be provided at the Church.

Inquiries please to

CLIVE PUGH
Funeral Directors
95, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury SY2 8BB
Telephone: 01743 244644

JONES

Sarah Maria

Sadly passed away suddenly on December 30, 2013, aged 48 years.

Dearly beloved Daughter of Millicent and the late Iorwerth, a dear Sister of Elizabeth and Delyth and loving Aunt to Daniel, Jonathan, Tim, Alex and William.

Cremation Service at Pantrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham, on Friday, January 10, at 9.30am, followed by a Memorial Service at St Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry at 11am.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to Mental Health Foundation.

All inquiries to
DAVID DAVIES & SONS
1 Upper Church Street
Oswestry
Telephone 01691 653116.



JARVIS

Margaret Elizabeth

Of Swan Hill House, Shrewsbury.

On December 31, 2013, aged 96 years.

Formerly of Wollerton Bank, Wollerton, near Market Drayton.

Widow of Tony Jarvis.

Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium, on Thursday, January 16, 2014, at 11am.

No flowers by request.

Donations if wished, will be divided equally between The Severn Hospice and Midlands Air Ambulance charity, for which purpose a collection box will be provided at the Crematorium.

Inquiries please to

CLIVE PUGH
Funeral Directors
95, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury SY2 8BB
Telephone: 01743 244644

SEAGER

Margaret

Of Bomere Heath, Shrewsbury.

On January 6, 2014, aged 82 years.

The beloved Wife of John.

Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium, on Friday, January 24, 2014, at 12 noon.

No flowers by request.

Donations if wished to the National Children's Home, for which purpose a collection box will be provided at the Crematorium.

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Please email your CV and covering letter to

Fiona James, Nurse Team Leader at emp@nhs.net. Please mark the subject line as "Practice Nurse". A job description and person specification are available on request.

Closing date for applications will be 13th January 2014.

However, we withhold the right to close the advertisement early.



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Please email your CV, with a covering letter stating salary expectations, to recruitment@lloydsanimalfeeds.com. Closing date for applications is 15.1.14

Public Notice

LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that Neil Antony Jenkins of Jebos Ltd (T/A The Twelve Green Bottles Wine Company) has made an application to Shropshire Council for a new premises licence at Unit 8, Gledrid Industrial Estate, Chirk LL14 5DG for the Sale of Alcohol between the hours of 8.00 and 18.00 hours Monday to Saturday.

Any persons wishing to make comments must do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6ND or email Licensing@shropshire.gov.uk within 28 days of this notice dated 04/01/2014.

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction is up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5,000).

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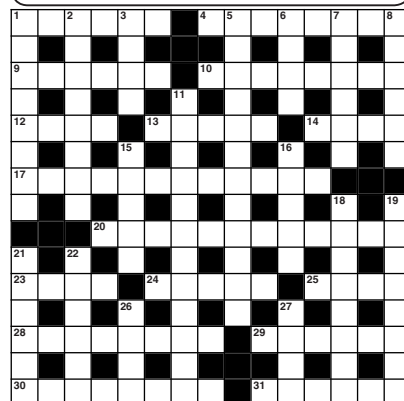
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Application forms, Job Description and more information from Linda Richardson: 01952 501155
Email: linda.richardson@spholding.co.uk
Closing date: Midday, Friday 24th January 2014.

CROSSWORD



Compiled by Roger F. Squires

ACROSS

- 1 Order tinned hash (6)
- 4 Worn thin, perhaps, so it's included free (6,2)
- 9 Is in a hide to see a bird (6)
- 10 Way-out individuals that make strange impressions (3,5)
- 12 Stick around a Pacific isle (4)
- 13 Drinking bender (5)
- 14 Water thoroughly (4)
- 17 Insistent about the NCO being unreliable (12)
- 20 No prime consideration (12)
- 23 The first man to be a mother (4)
- 24 A month in advance (5)
- 25 See about learning (4)
- 28 Rich language changed to richer (8)
- 29 A dessert's round and in layers (6)
- 30 Battle colours? (3,5)
- 31 Go east to meet the German writer (6)

DOWN

- 1 Status symbols? (8)
- 2 A message to execute, once and for all (8)
- 3 To expose a lie it needs hammering home (4)
- 5 Not a dry subject, but dictators shy from it (12)
- 6 A hot-tempered expression (4)
- 7 Change planes in Italy (6)
- 8 Settle down to some earnest letter-writing (6)
- 11 Initial repetition is only repetition after all (12)
- 15 At a pinch it may be used as a sedative (5)
- 16 This Jack has three crosses to bear (5)
- 18 Blissfully unaware (8)
- 19 See great changes in accommodation aboard (8)
- 21 Lawyers open with argument that carries weight (6)
- 22 Rush through a life's work (6)
- 26 Quenches thirst when troubles arise (4)
- 27 German king, a non-drinker in spectacles (4)

LAST WEEKS RESULTS

Across: 1 Persuasion, 6 Fall, 10 Capri, 11 Exemption, 12 Connotes, 13 Peers, 15 Example, 17 Alabama, 19 Iceboat, 21 Shlyock, 22 Radii, 24 Footing, 27 Termagant, 28 Liege, 29 Diet, 30 Syndicates.

Down: 1 Pace, 2 Reprobate, 3 Union, 4 Spectre, 5 Open sea, 7 Arise, 8 Longshanks, 9 Epiphany, 14 Denigrated, 16 Prodigal, 18 Adornment, 20 Tiffany, 21 Spotted, 23 Dirge, 25 Lilac, 26 Pews.

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Links Electrical Supplies growth 'phenomenal'



Links now stock and supply all the necessary components of a Solar PV Installation.

LINKS Electrical Supplies opened for business in Newtown in 2000 and has grown to a seven-branch, multi-million pound organisation.

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Links Electrical have invested in stock holding at each branch with an overnight service using Links' own vans offering additional stock availability from its own Bulk Stores to all seven branches.

Links have a wide range including wiring accessories, cables, switchgear, lighting, heating, ventilation product and much more.

We also stock and supply all the necessary components of a Solar PV Installation from approved and accredited sources.

Prices have been negotiated which will mean Links will be able to compete with other wholesalers in the market.

Links also offer a free of charge lighting scheme service to all domestic, commercial or industrial customers, where we can advise you on costs, calculate your savings and estimate the payback date. Pop into our Oswestry branch on Mile End Business Park and speak to Richie, Mandie or Allan or call (01691) 672871 for more information.

Offering top tool hire service with a smile



There's a warm welcome at Griffiths Hire Shop in Oswestry.

GRIFFITHS Hire Shops are a family-run business, operating in the Shropshire and North Wales Areas for over 30 years.

The company prides itself on providing a professional and friendly service to all their customers.

They have three shops, situated in Oswestry, Wrexham and Whitechurch and although the core of the company business is tool hire they can offer cus-

tomers much more. An extensive range of tools and equipment is available to view on-line at www.griffithshireshop.co.uk, covering all aspects of needs for the construction trade, industry and DIY markets.

Griffiths Hire Shops stock a large range of quality power tools, equipment, workwear and consumables to purchase and are main agents for brands such as Makita, Stihl, Paslode, Fein, Numatic, Calor Gas, Everbuild, Toolpak, Trend and Hobbyweld.

All shops offer a full back-up and a workshop repair service for tools and equipment purchased by customers.

The Oswestry shop now has new showrooms with an upstairs area dedicated to workwear, sealants, adhesives and fixings.

The Wrexham shop has the largest range of mobile access equipment such as scissor and boom lifts for hire and also a dedicated training centre offering various courses which are now an essential part of customer needs.



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ROOFING and Salvage Depot provides new and reclaimed roofing, reclaimed bricks and stone, new and reclaimed quarry tiles, architectural antiques, slate and stone flooring.

From its yard at Maesbury Road Industrial Estate, in Oswestry, the firm supplies new and reclaimed materials to the public and the trade.

It offers a full brick, slate and tile matching service and also provides a

complete estimating service for any of the products in stock. It can source almost any type of reclaimed brick; handmade, wire cut and pressed are available with a wide range of specials.

The staff team has more than 50 years combined experience and the firm prides itself on being able to supply customers with a unique service. It has contacts nationwide ensuring that, if it's not in stock, it can be sourced.

The firm also keeps a variety of unique architectural antiques such as staddle stones, doors, windows, decorative lintels, steps, pillar caps and

gates. It also supplies both internal and external stone and slate flooring.

If you have something of interest, take along some photos and get a valuation – it buys as well as sells!

If you have a large project in the works, Roofing and Salvage Depot can arrange demolition.

Feel free to call at the yard.

A spokesman said: "As a family-run business, we pride ourselves on our level of service and, with a fast, economical delivery service available, we are your number one choice for all of your roofing and salvage needs."



An example of the firm's work.

SHROPSHIRE Galvanizers is situated on the Maes y Clawdd Industrial Estate in Oswestry.

Originally set-up in Ellesmere on a rented site Shropshire Galvanizers developed the greenfield site at Oswestry 18 years ago and have been successfully galvanising in the county for more than 25 years now.

Shropshire Galvanizers are part of the Hereford group, established over 40 years ago, and between the sites deal with over 16,000 tonnes of steel



Shropshire Galvanisers in Oswestry can produce to meet demand.

per year, which equates to over 400 tonnes of steel galvanised every week.

Lee Leightwood, the works manager, prides himself on customer service and deals with accounts ranging from supplying a single garden gate to bigger projects such as Welshpool Livestock Market and Ivor Williams Trailers.

"We offer expert packaging services and can distribute all over the UK and the World," he said. "We have recently invested in a brand new powder coating plant at Aspect House which is also based on the Maes y Clawdd estate,

bringing employment to the town and its success promises more jobs over the next few years."

The new plant has enabled the company to offer a wide range of coating services, including shot blasting, galvanising and powder coating to both the public and trade. Anything is possible, whether you are a private individual or have industrial or agricultural requirements," he added.

Contact Lee Leightwood on (01691) 67057 to discuss your requirements or visit the website at www.galvanizers.co.uk

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Fourways guarantees outstanding reliability across a great range of cars and vans, and a transparent rental system that means the price quoted is the price you pay.

Its reputation as a local, family

owned rental company means customers can depend on them, with a personal touch from friendly and helpful staff and a fleet of modern vehicles maintained to the highest standards.

Journey

Anyone in North Shropshire and South Cheshire can call their teams in Whitchurch or Oswestry and start their journey with Fourways Self Drive.

Whether the vehicle is for agricultural use, business or leisure, Fourways will source the right one

anywhere in the country, and it is available to hire from one day to three years plus.

There is a new range of vehicles available, up to 7.5 tonnes - from every day cars, vans and sprinters to specialist vehicles such as refrigerated, flat beds, tippers, crew cabs and trailers.

Fourways Self Drive is based at: Unit 4, Mile Oak Industrial Estate, Maesbury Road, Oswestry SY10 8GA.

For further information contact the team on 01691 653520 or send an email to info@fvsd.co.uk

Celebrating 10 years of supplying vehicle parts

CV parts supplier Globe Transport Products celebrated its 10th successful year in business in May.

Globe, which supplies replacement parts for all the major marques of commercial vehicle has expanded its operation within the sector thanks in part to a series of recent depot openings, including the company's new headquarters in Oldbury, West Midlands.

The Oldbury base was one of four new Globe depots to open last year, alongside sites at Avonmouth, Sheffield and Warrington.

The chain of depots, together with the firm's original base in Oswestry and a Cardiff depot which opened in 2010, forms a six-strong network of locations across England and Wales.

To complement its existing vehicle replacement parts range, the company has added a comprehensive trailer spares range to its portfolio. Globe, which cites its service, technical support, staff knowledge and experience as among its key selling points, has also launched a new website.

Globe recently announced its sponsorship of Team Thomas Racing for the second consecutive year, in the 2012 BTRA and FIA European championships. The team finished in third place year after entering the championship halfway through the season.

A spokesman for the firm said: "The name 'Globe Transport Products' is synonymous with quality parts for commercial vehicles and we have earned a truly enviable reputation nationwide."

"For the past 10 years national distributors, fleet operators and owner



Globe Transport Products now boasts a chain of new depots

drivers have identified that 'Globe Transport Products' is the brand to be trusted.

"With six branches located in Birmingham, Oswestry, Warrington, Cardiff, Sheffield, Avonmouth and with more planned, Globe is the UK's fastest growing commercial vehicle parts supply business."

"We supply quality replacement parts for Scania, Volvo, DAF, Renault, MAN, Mercedes and Iveco commercial vehicles and we have now added a comprehensive range of trailer spares to complement our CV products."

"We have recently launched our new website which went live last month, it details a large range of replacement parts for all CV marques."

"GTP are passionate about commercial vehicles, passionate about service and passionate about quality. Understanding the importance of keeping vehicles on the road GTP supply quality products you can be sure of."

"Our commitment is to ensure complete customer satisfaction."

● Globe Transport is situated at Unit 9, Mile Oak Industrial Estate, Oswestry, SY10 8GA.



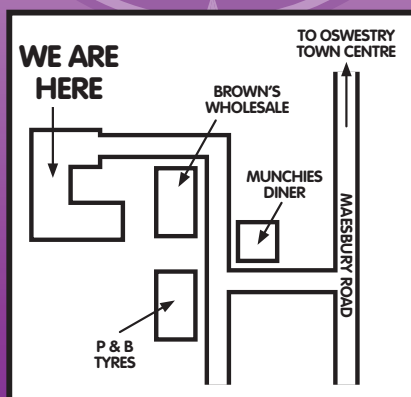
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Unit 9 Mile Oak Industrial Estate, Oswestry, SY10 8GA

Maesbury Road Industrial, Trade & Retail Estates.

Larger premises for truck parts company



Oswestry Truck Parts has moved to larger premises at Mile Oak Industrial Estate.

OSWESTRY Truck Parts was originally set up in 1989 and taken over by its current owners in 2004, run by manager Tony Williams with the help of Lesley Thomson.

The business has been successfully

serving the local trucking, haulage and agricultural community for 25 years here in Oswestry from Maesbury Road. Last year in April, due to an expanding customer base, the business moved to larger premises on the Mile Oak Industrial Estate where they have an extensive trade and retail counter with lots of items to take away.

They are suppliers of Morris Lubricants, batteries, wipers, electrical components and cables and can get hold of anything an individual or business needs. They also offer an out-of-hours service, contact Tony on 07772 919689. Visit Oswestry Truck Parts at Unit 42, Mile Oak Industrial Estate, or call (01691) 671379.

Family firm offers range of products and services



A typical kitchen available from J C Dyke.

J C Dyke Supplies has been in business for over 20 years, supplying building and DIY customers in the English/Welsh border towns, Shropshire and the West.

We are a family-run business with stores in Oswestry and Ellesmere.

Over the years we have built up a fantastic reputation in both trade and retail communities and our customers rely on us for quality and competitively priced building and DIY products and excellent service.

What do we offer? Choose from our

extensive range of doors and windows. Our joinery service can supply you with tailor-made joinery products from stairs, windows and doors to made to measure conservatories and bedroom and office furniture.

Full barn conversion joinery projects are also undertaken.

Discuss your kitchen ideas with us and we will plan and advise you on the best kitchen that will work for you. Choose your style from hundreds of possibilities and let us install your dream kitchen.

If you need help with storage solutions for your office we offer a free

planning service and will deliver and fit. We also have a huge range of decking and patio products and furniture.

Our joinery division, J C Dyke Joinery, specialises in bespoke joinery and purpose-made joinery products offering a wide range of purpose built, joinery products including doors, windows, staircases, conservatories, barn conversions, shop fronts, and many more made-to-measure joinery items.

For a free quotation, whatever your joinery requirements, please contact Colin Dyke or Steve Edwards on (01691) 670314 or fax us your joinery requirements on (01691) 659883.

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Maesbury Road Industrial, Trade & Retail Estates.

Firm supplies full range of products for cleaning



Paperkleen can deliver to you.

PAPERKLEEN UK Ltd has over 25 years' experience in the janitorial cleaning supplies industry.

The company supplies a full range of cleaning and hygiene products, chemicals and catering disposables to clients in a fleet of delivery vans.

Situated at Unit 2, Maes Y Clawdd, Oswestry, they also supply other companies throughout the UK via a national delivery network.

The firm supplies cleaning and hygiene products including brands like Clover Chemicals and Ramon Hygiene

which are manufactured to industry standards.

The products are suitable for all business and home use and are available either on the company website or over the phone.

The company is managed by Paul Coulter who has been focusing on the janitorial industry for many years. He previously worked in the paper manufacturing sector at the highest levels.

Whether you are looking for paper products, dispenser units, washroom equipment, disinfectants and bleaches, housekeeping, floorcare, bar and catering, soaps, laundry, napkins, gloves,

refuse sacks, film and foil or other janitorial supplies, Paperkleen has all the answers.

If you have any general queries please contact Paperkleen and staff will be only too happy to help you.

Alternatively, they will do their utmost to source and stock any items you do not see in the product guide.

To contact Paperkleen telephone (01691) 655311/656000; Fax: 05601 266789, call the sales line on 0845 521 3831 or send an e-mail to sales@paperkleen.co.uk

Or you can visit the website www.paperkleen.co.uk

Craftsmen creating camper conversions



Geewagen offers a wide range of services from converted vehicles for sale to parts for DIY conversions.

GEEWAGEN specialises in the conversion of commercial vehicles of all makes and ages into practical and comfortable campervans.

We are based in Oswestry, on Maesy-Clawdd Enterprise Centre (just behind Pentons Haulage) and can offer over 25 years of experience in the leisure vehicle industry.

A company spokesman said: "Geewagen brings together a group of

highly skilled craftsmen offering the customer a range of services from practical advice to designing their own bespoke interior. Our designs are built upon our own experiences of owning and using campervans.

"At Geewagen we are able to offer the customer a full range of services from converted vehicles for sale, suspension lowering, alloy wheels and tyre packages, interior units with various appliances and upholstery services.

"We also offer window fitting, insulation/ply lining/trimming, elevating

roof fitting, and supply of parts/materials for DIY conversions. We also produce bespoke units for every type of commercial vehicle.

"All of our units are made on site by our skilled craftsmen and can be made to the customers' own requirements. Geewagen also convert commercial vehicles for various business use, including a recently created crew van for a television company."

Contact Geewagen on 01691 680891, e-mail mark@gee-wagen.co.uk or visit www.gee-wagen.co.uk

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Maesbury Road Industrial, Trade & Retail Estates.

Firm now able to work on more makes of 4x4

Carpet firm is pleased with new store success



Tim Gibbs and Ruth Hutchings in the parts department at McDonald Landrover in Oswestry.

SUCH is the reputation that McDonald Landrover has built up at Oswestry, the company now offers services to owners of other makes of 4x4.

Fully trained staff are now in place as the business expands to accommodate increased demand.

"We have taken on new staff who are experienced and trained on other makes and we have invested in the very best diagnostic equipment," said

Tim Gibbs and Ruth Hutchings in the parts department at McDonald Landrover in Oswestry.

The business was purchased in 2001 as a small parts supply operation and moved to the current larger premises in 2002, opening the workshop with one mechanic. The business now has five people in the workshop, three on parts and one in the office.

Parts stockholding is over £100,000 and any part that is not on the shelf can be obtained for the next day.

McDonald Landrover also has a thriving website shop, letting cus-

tomers buy what they need online. The workshop staff have a wealth of experience backed up by the latest vehicle-specific diagnostic equipment, meaning any problem on any Land Rover from 1948 to the present day can be worked on.

Servicing is undertaken using genuine Land Rover service parts, ensuring that all vehicles still within their warranty period receive the correct work. For further information contact McDonald Landrover at Mile Oak Industrial Estate, Maesbury Road, Oswestry, on 01691 657705.



A dazzling choice of carpets promises to deliver something for every taste.

SHROPSHIRE Carpets are extremely pleased with the success of their new store which opened in early July.

It is located on Oswestry Trade Park, stocking the same fantastic products as their Shrewsbury store based at Arrowpoint Retail Park.

The team strongly believe they have a lot to offer to Oswestry and the surrounding area. In addition to their outstanding prices, extensive products in stock within the store, luxurious items available to order and excellent cus-

tomers service skills, they also offer estimating and fitting services.

Valued customers can be assured their orders are completed in a non-pressured selling environment, where they are able to browse freely and ask any questions required to establish their requirements are fully met.

In addition, there are no hidden delivery costs and surcharges.

Shropshire Carpets is a family run, independent retailer. Excellent customer service is their priority, and by building good customer relationships, individuals' needs and budgets are

quickly established and respected. Their efforts are being rewarded with a high level of repeat business via recommendations, and fantastic testimonials from very satisfied customers.

The team has extensive experience and product knowledge of the latest trends and colours.

Flooring starts from just £4.99 sq/m, with extensive ranges of 100% wool, wool mixes and bleach-cleanable carpets in multi-width sizes, remnants, rollstock, vinyls, and underlays. Enquiries are welcome on (01691) 659611.

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Groundcare firm equal to challenges you face Third generation still giving high standards



A wide range of machinery is available from John Osman Groundcare.

JOHN Osman Groundcare is based in Oswestry and serves Shropshire, Mid, West and North Wales as well as Cheshire.

This family business started trading in the early 1990s and has gone from strength to strength in looking after customer needs in supplying, servicing, and repairing machinery for every requirement in the lawn care and commercial mowing/groundcare sector.

The business also caters for the pro-

fessional user, for example golf courses, local authorities, contractors, and caravan parks, and supplies major branded machinery such as the Ransomes Jacobsen range of cutting edge machinery.

Golfers are not forgotten with the latest range of golf cars from E-Z-Go. Farmers, game keepers and utility companies are not left out with the supply of four wheel drive SUV and ATV vehicles from Polaris, Cushman and

Kawasaki. Visit the well stocked showroom and see our vast range of competitively priced equipment. Also see our large stock of used and refurbished equipment. Why pay for new when you can buy quality used equipment?

So from the smallest trimmers to the largest groundcare machines give us a call and be prepared for next season's grounds maintenance challenges.

S.A.W. McBride & Sons Ltd was established in 1955 by the late Sydney McBride who always provided high quality workmanship and value for money.

Fifty-eight years on and the third generation still aims to provide the same high standards.

The company moved to 45,000 sq ft bespoke premises in Oswestry 23 years ago where it continued to manufacture insulated composite panels for the construction of ceilings, walls and doors for food factories and cold stores.

Twelve years ago it created 5,000 pallet spaces which are now used for ambient bulk storage. The company has now acquired additional premises in Hadnall, providing another 40,000 sq ft for the expansion of the business.

Products -

M Kerb: A product developed 10 years ago to provide protection and wall-to-floor finish in high-risk food factories. It is unique, manufactured in 2mm thick 316 grade DP 1 finish stainless steel. This product is manufactured in continuous length up to 18 metres and can be set on sub base hardcore to speed up the concrete process in new-build and refurbishment projects.

Turnkey: S.A.W. McBride & Sons Ltd is equipped to construct new-build turnkey projects from greenfield to complete factory, all fabrications works are done in house.

Storage -

The company now has additional storage space to rent pallet space or by square foot.

New products -



Established in 1955 by the late Sydney McBride, the company is now run the third generation and still aims to provide the same high standards. Here is a project using McBride elements for a fast-track build.

S.A.W. McBride & Sons Ltd has now developed a totally new concept in house building.

This has been in design for 10 years and is now perfected and due to produce in the spring.

The system boasts the following:
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FEATURE & NEWS

01691 668094

Singers wanted by choral society

OSWESTRY Choral Society is hoping to encourage new members to swell its ranks in its 125th anniversary year.

Currently there are 55 members, aged from 14 to 80, who perform a variety of music from large choral works to shorter classical songs, sacred and secular, gospel and Jazz pieces.

New members do not have to audition but should be able to sing in tune and be prepared to attend rehearsals regularly. Rehearsals are held in school term time on Wednesdays at 7.30pm at the Musgrave Centre, Moreton Hall School, near Oswestry.

OCS gives two major concerts a year at Christmas and in the spring, plus invitation concerts. Call Hazel on (01691) 670404 or visit www.oschoral.org

Open mic night on at wine bar

AN OPEN mic night will be held at Wilsons Wine Bar at the Wynnstay Hotel, Church Street, Oswestry on January 24.

The session will start at 8pm and is run by Purple-Fish. All are welcome to listen or to perform.

For more information contact VJ Lonsdale on 07964 726407.

The joy of birds' nests can even be enjoyed in January

HAPPY New Year. In the four and a half years (or perhaps it would be more appropriate to say that in the 18 or so natural seasons...) that I've been writing this rather sketchy column, I've received many messages of agreement, disagreement, support and suggestion.

All are most welcome of course and it's always nice to hear about your own wildlife experiences in our shared Salopian countryside. However, some of the most rewarding comments concern the word 'inspiration'.

I do not by any manner of means intend to pretend that the source of the inspiration about which some readers comment on is centred around myself, but rather that my writings on a particular species or area have motivated one or two otherwise television-bound persons to go for a brief stroll in the rural landscape or north Shropshire.

This, believe you me, is personally reason enough to continue, but it must be admitted that besides from a healthy "naturalist's spirit", a large dollop of liberally spread luck is also often needed to seek out the individual animal about which I am commenting.

Adoration

Well to kick off 2014, you may be happy to hear that the wildlife concerned in this column requires very little luck indeed. Us naturalists (and most people with anything other than a sadistic adoration for frostbite and the polar regions) are surely looking forward to Spring. Another six weeks or so of cold soggy weather before we can welcome in several weeks of warmer soggy weather.

But Spring is perhaps such a blessed relief from the toils of winter not only because the thermometer may spike a little over freezing for a change, but also because of that wondrous potential for new life. And no animal group better typifies that than the birds.

Birds are, after all, the only truly wild creature that many of us see in our day-to-day lives. What could be better therefore than a glut of new life in the form of our feathered friends? And, of course, when we think

ON THE WILD SIDE
by Ben Waddams

of new life in the bird world, we think of nests. The nesting season, depending on which bird species we choose, runs from February all the way through to the late autumnal months, but deepest winter certainly isn't the time for nests...or is it?

For us humans, January is probably the best time to appreciate bird nests. Take a stroll along any leafless hedgerow (although I'd recommend one of blackthorn or hawthorn) and you will see little clusters of twigs, the remnants, in whole or in part, of last year's bird nests prominently displayed in an otherwise vacuous bush. Why not try identifying them from a field guide or off the internet? I have to say that what with the strong winds recently, you may have difficulty in doing so, but at the very least you can see the sort of areas to keep an eye on in the coming months.

One nest that should have survived the blustery onslaught is that of the long tailed tit. They build a superb domed nest using moss, which they camouflage with lichen and make strong and shock absorbent with spider's webs.

The female lays and incubates 10 to 12 smooth and glossy eggs that are white with purplish-red spots and are about 14mm by 10mm. Both adults feed the newly-hatched young but unusually this job is often shared by other birds, especially males that have failed to breed that season. They are pretty birds and are often seen in gardens during the winter...another easy one and what's more, they have the attractive label in the bird guide as being 'unmistakeable'; always a helpful tick against one's species.

So, dear reader, be inspired by the splendour, resilience and reliability of Shropshire wildlife this year.

Ben's artwork and other media can be seen online at www.waddams.webs.com



Long Tailed Tit – oil on board – by Ben Waddams.

Slimming and health course is to start

A NEW health and slimming course will be starting this month, run by three organisations in Oswestry.

Plan2Slim will include gym sessions, healthy eating advice, weekly meetings and one-to-one consultations and is being run by BodyTech Health Club, Change Health and Purple-Fish.

The course will start on January 15 led by Jeff Anderson, director of BodyTech, and local GP Dr Tim Lyttle, director of Change Health.

During the three month course, participants will take part in weekly weigh-ins and be given a programme of exercise to complete each session.

The course costs £60, which includes 25 per cent off health club membership for life. Meetings are at BodyTech Health Club at 7pm each Wednesday. Call (01691) 657400 or visit www.plan2slim.com

Lights display winners chosen

WINNERS of the Christmas Light display organised through the Oswestry In Bloom committee were: bottle of champagne, Mr & Mrs Jones of 37 Fir Grove; box of chocolates Mr & Mrs Slipper of 2 Oerley Way.

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THE ARTS

01691 668094

Museum staff's delight as 10,000th visitor welcomed

by Iain St John

OSWESTRY'S museum has had its 10,000th visitor less than two years after it opened, delighted bosses have revealed.

Bosses say they are "pleased as punch" to have reached the milestone so quickly. The museum, which is in the Guildhall on the Bailey Head in Oswestry, opened on March 1 2012.

Trustee Mark Hignett said: "We just think it is fabulous news particularly because we have not even been open two years yet and we have reached those sort of figures."

"The 10,000th visitor came during the Christmas period so we didn't really have time to mark it but the visitor was from Meole Brace in Shrewsbury."

"We are pleased as punch to have got to the figure so quickly."

"I remember we were accused of being over optimistic in our projected visitor numbers when we first launch the project."

"Even we have been amazed at the response to the museum and the numbers have far exceeded our hopes."

Mr Hignett said 2014 was shaping up to be a significant year for the museum.

He said the museum would once again be playing a leading role in this year's Heritage Open Day weekend in September.

And he said museum bosses were determined for its success to continue.

He said: "We have a variety of talks and projects lined up for this year."

"We need assistance and at the moment we are particularly looking for somebody willing to come on board and help organise the talks and events we stage at the museum."

Anybody interested in taking up the role to organise talks and events or anyone keen to become a director is asked to call Mr Hignett on (01948) 781079 for further information.



Museum curator Mark Hignett and Justin Soper, dressed as a soldier from the English Civil War. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

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GIG GUIDE

01691 668094

Popular duo to play at home town show

GIG GUIDE

with Edward Roberts



FIND somewhere comfortable, sit yourself down and get ready to have a great time this Saturday as local favourites Little Red Bird will be performing at The Cross Keys, Selattyn.

For those not familiar with the band, Little Red Bird is made up of Matt Morris who handles vocals, guitar and banjo duties, and Louisa Jones on vocals.

The band has recently released their first album 'Back to Bone', available for £10 from either Booka Bookshop or Outwhere Records. The gig starts at 8pm with tickets costing £6 for adults and £3 for children.

Singer songwriter Chris Dumville will be returning to the Lowfield Inn, Marton on Friday night with his intriguing mix of styles including blues, ragtime, soul and folk. The gig starts at 8pm and is free entry.

If you're looking for something to do this Friday night then head down to The Royal Oak, Welshpool, as singer songwriter Graham Reece will be performing at 9pm and is free entry.

The Valleys Film Society will be screening western thriller *Sweet Vengeance* at Llanfyllin High School on Friday.

If gritty westerns aren't for you then don't worry - head back to the 70s with a screening of *Hunky Dory* at Trefonen Village Hall on Saturday from 7.30pm. The film boasts an excellent soundtrack with Lou Reed, David Bowie and Simon and Garfunkel.

Big net for hospice



Lyseyne Kilvert, fundraiser for Hope House Children's Hospice, left, receives the cheque for £1,230 from VJ Lonsdale, organiser of Purplefish, a community events group set up by Hope Church, Oswestry.

PURPLEFISH has raised £1,230 in 2013 for Hope House Children's Hospice and celebrated with a Christmas event with local bluegrass duo Little Red Bird at the Last Inn in Hengoed.

Purplefish, an events organisation started by Hope Church, Oswestry, organised 14 events during the year with more than 700

people attending. These included open mic nights in Wilsons Wine Bar, pub quiz night's, wine tasting evenings in The Walls and a debate in The Wynnstey Hotel.

In 2014 Purplefish, is planning to raise money for an overseas project and the next event is an open mic night in Wilsons on January 24.

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Drivetime

Mervyn retires after 36 years with Greenhous

A member of staff has retired after spending 36 years in the Greenhous Telford Parts department. Mervyn Jarman left the company at the end of last month after becoming one of the longest serving members of staff to have worked at Greenhous.

Mervyn joined the company in 1977 as a parts advisor at Ketley at the age of 29. He then went on to become a successful parts manager in the 1980's and has stayed at Greenhous ever since.

Dave Sullivan, franchise director at Greenhous, said "Merv has been a huge asset to the Greenhous team ever since he began all those years ago and everyone here has shared many great memories with him."

Knowledge

"In 2000, Merv was instrumental in setting up the parts operation in our new Trench Lock super site and has continued to be a solid wealth of knowledge to us all which will be hugely missed."

"To have worked at the same company for 36 years is a massive achievement and Merv can retire in the knowledge that he has made a real impact on the company during a time that was key to our growth."

Dave continued "I believe it is a testament to Greenhous that so many members of staff have stayed with the company for the duration of their careers. "In the summer, we presented 20



Franchise director Dave Sullivan says goodbye to Mervyn Jarman

employees with their 25 years of service watches and this highlights just how highly we value our staff and how important we believe it is to look after them.

"Although Merv is quite a no fuss man, we couldn't let him retire empty handed."

"We knew he had many passions including motor sport, walking and now

sharing great times with his grandchildren. We decided to present him with a camera so that he can capture all of those special moments."

Dave concluded "On behalf of all the management team and colleagues, we would like to wish Merv a long and healthy retirement and thank him for all of his support and effort over the years."



The Antara is robust and built to perform in bad weather with high clearance and tough styling

Take on winter driving

With the winter weather upon us and the white stuff making an appearance, many drivers are anticipating a season of travel interruptions, traffic delays and treacherous road conditions.

For motorists in Ludlow, Vauxhall retailer Ludlow Motors is on hand with a choice of all-wheel-drive models that will make light work of winter driving.

The retailer on Bromfield Road is inviting motorists in the area to discover more about the 4x4 variants, which each offer the capability to perform in a range of environments.

Peter Hughes, retail operator at Ludlow Motors said: "At this time of year, the wintry weather conditions can make it difficult for people to get out and about, but thanks to Vauxhall's range of all-wheel-drive models and their off-road capabilities, drivers can continue to

embrace the open road, whatever nature throws at it."

The SUV-inspired Insignia Country Tourer is based on the Sports Tourer model and boasts adaptive all-wheel drive capability.

Customers can choose between two trim levels, Country Tourer, priced from £25,349 on-the-road, and Country Tourer Nav, priced from £26,499 on the road.

With its high ground clearance and tough styling, alongside variable torque delivery and a choice of two powerful turbo-diesel engines, this robust model helps motorists to meet the demand of the road when the going gets tough.

The Vauxhall Antara can be equipped with an innovative, electronically controlled all-wheel drive powertrain, offering optimal traction and driver confidence in difficult conditions.

The 4x4 variant is available with a choice of three trims and two efficient

2.2cdTi 16v diesel engines, and can be ordered from £23,390 on the road.

Having just passed the milestone of its first year in production, the Vauxhall Mokka offers a superior ride alongside advanced driving.

With a highly competitive starting price of £18,259 on the road for the all-wheel-drive variant, the five-seater athletic SUV is compact enough to handle city traffic whilst enabling drivers to embark upon more challenging roads.

To make purchasing a brand new Antara or Mokka from Ludlow Motors even easier, customers can take advantage of Vauxhall's innovative Flexible Finance scheme. It is zero per cent APR Representative, no minimum deposit and a payment term varying between 24 to 60 months.

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Drivetime

Volkswagen Amarok What's the best way to sell your vehicle?

The Volkswagen Amarok has undergone the ultimate test drive after being taken on a week-long trip around the Pyrenees.

The commercial vehicle was taken on an off-road adventure back in October and more than proved its credentials on the rough terrain.

The Amarok was borrowed by Swiss Vans Limited, a leasing company which Greenhouse VW has been working with for the past year.

After supplying Swiss Vans with a wide range of vehicles for its leasing and contract hire services, Greenhouse VW, based in Bilston, agreed to lend the company an Amarok to put through its paces.

Steve Yates, national fleet sales executive at Greenhouse VW, said: "I had been dealing with Swiss Vans for a number of years prior to my position here. Over the past 12 months Greenhouse has also built up a strong relationship with the company."

"We supply them with six to ten Volkswagen vans a week and are planning to extend the brands we have available after the group's recent acquisition of six new manufacturers including Nissan and Renault."

Largest

Swiss Vans is based in Bridgend, South Wales and is one of the largest van suppliers in the EU. With a combined experience of over 20 years in car and van sales and strong manufacturer and vehicle supplier connections, the company has established itself as an experienced and reliable dealer.

Ian Hill, managing director at Swiss Vans Limited, said: "We took the Amarok with us to join up with Lost World Adventures which provide guided overland expedition tours for 4x4 vehicles. We had a great experience alongside the other off-road vehicles, travelling through Spain to reach the Pyrenees for a five-day adventure through the mountains."

"The Amarok outperformed all the other 4x4s in every aspect, being much faster and easier to drive. The only difficulty we encountered was with its size, as it was much larger than the others and therefore slightly harder to manoeuvre over tricky terrain."

"Despite the issues with its size, the Amarok is incredibly



The Volkswagen Amarok in the Pyrenees

easy to drive in general with its 180PS and eight-speed automatic gearbox. Hill descents were easy, and with just the push of a button, the vehicle more or less drove itself downhill at a slow speed."

Ian concluded: "We have always had a positive experience dealing with Greenhouse and over the past 12 months have established a relationship we hope to continue long into the future."

"Taking the Amarok to the Pyrenees was an amazing opportunity which wouldn't have happened if Greenhouse hadn't lent us the vehicle to begin with."

Steve continued: "When Ian asked us if he could borrow the Amarok, we thought it would be a great opportunity to put the truck well and truly to the test. The vehicle is known for being one of the most robust and practical pick-ups on the market, but we wanted to see how it would perform in a more challenging environment."

"We are thrilled with how well the Amarok handled the Pyrenees and that Ian was pleased with its performance. We were happy to supply him with the vehicle and hope that the relationship between both businesses continues to flourish."

We all like the thought of buying a new car – new or used, makes no difference. There is just something delightfully satisfying about driving away in that newly acquired machine.

Of course before most of us buy a new car, we need to sell our old one, and that can be a rather daunting experience.

So what options do we have to part with our no longer loved motor?

Perhaps selling privately might be the answer. Or maybe part exchange? And then there is the most recent of innovations the 'We want any car' type companies, which will take any drivable car off your hands in any condition for cash.

So if you are looking to sell your car, here are your options:

Selling privately

Whether this entails a 'for sale' sign in the window or an ad in the local paper, Auto Trader or online, this can sometimes be a lengthy process.

Of course, the flip side is that we can at least expect a better price selling to a member of the public. However, to achieve this, we would need to spend money on advertising and then spend time having prospective purchasers visit our home, often at inconvenient times.

And then after all the bargaining is done and dusted, we still might not achieve the price we were expecting.

Advantages: Can sometimes achieve a satisfying selling price. **Disadvantages:** Cost of advertising. Strangers visiting our home.

The inconvenience of taking phone calls and booking appointments to view, often at inconvenient times.

Part exchange

Simply take your car along to a dealer who will then give you a price based on you purchasing a new car from him. Sounds simple and indeed it is, however simplicity comes at a price.

Often the dealer will quote you a 'price to change' which means how much you will have to give the dealer plus your car, to take delivery of your new model. The actual price paid for your car isn't always revealed.

Advantages: Quick and easy. Sell and buy at the same time.

Disadvantages: You don't always know how much you are being given for your car as the price is hidden in the deal. You



Selling your car can be a daunting experience

don't know if you are getting the best price on the car you are purchasing. You obviously need to be in the market for a new car to make this option work for you.

The new 'We want any car' type companies

This is quite a new concept which seems to be getting ever more popular. The process is simple – you log on to www.WeWantAnyCar.com and enter the details of your car. You then get an instant value based on industry trade valuation guides. If you like the price you take your vehicle along to one of their depots where they will carry out a full on-site appraisal to ensure the car is in the condition that you claimed online.

A price is then agreed and you are given a cheque which clears in your bank within four working days. Simple!

Advantages: All done online, no personal pressure to sell. No hassle or inconvenience. There are 60 WeWantAnyCar.com branches around the UK making this option accessible nationally. Your car can be sold in minutes.

Disadvantages: Face value price might not be what you expected.

Scrap yard

Yes this is still an option, but whereas years ago you could get a fiver for your old car, today you have to pay them for taking it off your hands.

Advantages: You can dispose of it whenever you wish.

Disadvantages: It could actually cost you money.

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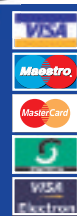
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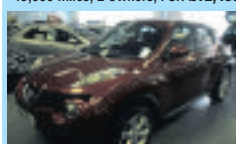
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2006 06	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCi GHIA Manual	5-door. Metallic Silver, 63,000 miles.....	£4,999
2005 05	FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCi EDGE	Metallic Silver, 81,000 miles.....	£2,999
2009 09	FORD MONDEO 2.0 ZETEC	Hatch back 1 owner, only 16,000 miles, Manual, Metallic Silver	£7,999
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SPORT

Early exit as Rovers meet their Waterloo

WATERLOO Rovers' challenge in the Central Wales Cup ended in disappointing fashion with an early 4-3 exit at home to Carno at rain-drenched Maesdyre.

One-time winners of the competition, the Welshpool side made a poor start as they trailed 2-0 in the third round tie – and it could have been worse as their Spar Mid Wales League rivals also missed a penalty.

But they hit back just before half-time when Marcus Ashley scored direct from a corner, and prospects looked promising for Waterloo after the break when they led 3-2 with goals from Gaz Turner and Steve Hole.

Rovers had chances to put the game to bed but, as the heavens opened, their hopes were washed away as Carno struck twice to move into the fourth round.

BERRIEW, who come face to face with Rovers in the league on Saturday, had no such problems as they swept aside Tywyn Brynecrug 5-2 with goals from Elliot Jones, Jackson Hassanyeh, Karl Seliarts, Matt Mumford and assistant boss Dave Jones who had come on as substitute.

Comfortable

LLANSANTFFRAID VILLAGE crashed out 4-0 at Knighton Town, all the goals coming in the second half with Sam Williams (2), Elliot Jones and Gwyn Jones the home marksmen.

It was also the end of the road for FOUR CROSSES who succumbed 2-0 at Rhosg whose player-manager Liam Jones and Matt Croose were on target.

Elsewhere, CAERSWS were comfortable 7-0 winners against visiting Talgarth, with Neil Mitchell (2), Mark Griffiths, sub Jacob Smith (2), Adam Jenkins and substitute Craig Stephens on target.

Penrhynoch won 4-1 at Bow Street, overcoming a one-goal deficit with Josh Hartnick bagging a hat-trick.

Half the fixture list, however, fell victim to the heavy rain with WELSHPOOL TOWN's trip to Llansyul and DYFFRYN BANW's clash at Cardigan among those to be postponed. The two ties will now be played on Saturday.

Also off were: Builth Wells v Penparcau, Presteigne v Llandrindod Wells, Llanrhaeadr v Montgomery and Rhayader Town v Aberaeron.

■ The only game in the Spar Mid Wales League saw Abermule suffer a disappointing 3-0 loss at lovely Bont in division two.

PLACINGS

Spar Mid Wales League									
DIVISION 1									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Ll'rindod Wells	14	14	0	0	58	32	42		
Llanfair Utd	15	12	1	2	44	15	37		
Waterloo	19	11	4	4	48	27	37		
Berriew	15	11	3	1	40	17	34		
Aberaeron	17	10	3	4	38	22	33		
Carno	15	10	2	3	34	20	32		
Four Crosses	16	5	3	8	35	44	18		
Llansantffraid	18	5	3	10	37	48	18		
Montgomery	17	5	2	10	20	48	17		
Welshpool	18	2	1	28	48	14	7		
Tywyn Brynecrug	10	4	0	6	22	27	12		
Bow Street	16	3	3	10	20	54	12		
Hay St Marys	7	3	1	10	25	17	10		
Builth Wells	16	2	2	12	27	52	8		
Dyffryn Banw	12	1	3	18	40	6	4		
Doelillyn	10	0	0	0	0	0	0		
DIVISION 2									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Rhosgorth	9	8	0	1	58	32	24		
Knighton	11	6	4	1	30	11	22		
Machynlleth	7	6	0	1	21	12	18		
Hay St Marys	7	3	1	2	13	12	10		
Presteigne	9	3	3	20	17	12	12		
Abermule	9	3	1	5	14	15	10		
Nbridge-on-Wye	8	2	2	4	12	24	8		
Talgarth	6	2	1	3	9	11	7		
Bont	12	1	3	8	12	40	6		
Kerry	10	0	3	16	39	3	3		
E R JENKINS CUP POOL A									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Rhosgorth	4	3	0	1	11	5	9		
Hay St Marys	4	3	0	1	11	8	9		
Knighton	4	1	2	1	6	8	5		
Presteigne	4	1	1	2	6	8	5		
Talgarth	4	0	1	3	7	11	1		
E R JENKINS CUP POOL B A									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Machynlleth	4	3	1	0	5	4	10		
Nbridge-on-Wye	4	2	1	1	14	9	7		
Albion	4	1	1	2	6	10	5		
Kerry	4	2	1	1	11	8	5		
Bont	4	0	0	4	6	26	0		

Young guns take spoils in 'Old v the Bold' clash



THE young guns took the spoils as FC Oswestry Town played their annual Christmas showdown against Oswestry Lions Veterans.

In an entertaining encounter known as the 'Old v the Bold', the younger FC Oswestry team edged the win 4-3 against the veterans – all players having been linked to the club over the past 15 years.

Rob Conde opened the scoring for the Oldies, then Broc Dawson scored a penalty to help the youngsters hit back for a 4-1 lead, before Neil Davies reduced the arrears with the best two goals of the game.

■ The teams line up before the game at Park Hall.

Saints alive to chances as they go four points clear



Football
by John Bridgwater

Bangor City 1 The New Saints 2

WELL-TAKEN goals from Matty Williams and Sam Finley took The New Saints four points clear at the top of the Welsh Premier with a resilient victory at Bangor City.

Williams opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time when he finished off a well-worked team move and Finley added a second just after the break.

Substitute Jamie McDaid pulled a goal back for the home side and Bangor stepped up the pressure late on. But TNS dug deep to claim an important victory.

The Saints enjoyed plenty of the game in the first half but struggled to find a way through, Aeron Edwards and Finley both forcing keeper Lee Idzi into good saves.

They also went close when Finley's deep pass was neatly controlled by Greg Draper only for the New Zealand forward's strike to rattle the post.

Moments later, the woodwork again saved Bangor when Finley's powerful swerving effort beat Idzi but crashed against the bar.

Thwarted

The breakthrough that had threatened, however, came two minutes before half-time when a terrific team move ended with Finley slipping the ball into the path of Williams for a fine finish.

TNS started the second half impressively and within minutes Edwards was again thwarted by an excellent stop from Idzi.

The rebound fell for Draper who could only hit the post from close range for the second time in the match.

But a second goal arrived on 64 minutes when Draper set up Finley, who found the top corner from just inside the box after some excellent initial work from Chris Jones.

The Saints had looked solid at the back, but Bangor revived their challenge five minutes later when McDaid converted from close range after a goalmouth scramble.

The goal lifted the home side who continued to push in search of an equaliser. Dec Walker tried his luck from range and Saints keeper Paul Harrison was to be alert to tip the ball over the bar.

In the latter stages, Les Davies headed over and Sion Edwards' shot flew just wide as the home side upped the ante.

Walker shot just wide from close range in the last minute after TNS had failed to clear a corner, but the league leaders clung on to claim the spoils.



Flying high – The New Saints' Chris Marriott is under pressure from Newtown's Luke Boundford. Pic: Mark Booth.

Goal for Seargeant in major victory

The New Saints 5 Newtown 1

THE New Saints underlined their Welsh Premier title credentials after turning the tables on Newtown by storming to a 5-1 victory at rainswept Park Hall.

Having lost pole position with a 1-0 Boxing Day loss at the hands of the Robins, the Saints put the record straight with a five-star display to return to the summit.

After a strike from Chris Seargeant had separated the sides at the interval, the defending champions took charge of the second half as Chris Jones' stunning 30-yard effort doubled the advantage.

Greg Draper made it 3-0 and, despite Jeff White pulling one back, the Saints had the last word with Matty Williams' excellent finish and Alex Darlington completing the nap hand.

Previous leaders Airbus UK were without a game due to a waterlogged pitch, so victory in the first action of the year put TNS back on top.

After picking up just one point from the previ-

ous two games, director of football Craig Harrison was thrilled by both the result and the performance.

"We played well and I was delighted with our style of play," he said. "We created a number of chances throughout the game and had them pinned back for large periods of the match."

"I was also really pleased by the fact that we had five different scorers."

"It is always a worry if you are relying on one player to score your goals and we have spoken about the issue this week."

"To be fair to Chris Seargeant, he has been chipping in with a few goals this season and just like Matty Williams, the goals they both scored rounded off their fantastic performances."

He added: "If we play in the manner we did and pass the ball like we can, we will inevitably come out on top in games."

"Of course there will be occasions when things might get in the way but, like I have said a number of times, when we are on it we can take on anyone."

The Saints started brightly in atrocious conditions, and broke the deadlock on 35 minutes when Seargeant went past a couple of defenders on the edge of the box and fired a powerful shot past keeper Mike Platt.

TNS started the second half well and, 12 minutes after the restart, it was 2-0 when Jones picked the ball up on the halfway line before unleashing a 30-yard shot which looped over Platt and into the top corner.

With the rain continuing to fall, Draper effectively sealed the points when tapping in from close range on 77 minutes after an excellent cross from Jones.

Within a minute, Newtown pulled a goal back through White, but hopes of a fightback were soon extinguished when Williams controlled the ball just inside the box before unleashing a terrific strike into the top corner to restore the three-goal advantage.

In the last minute, Darlington slotted home from the edge of the box to ensure that TNS returned to the top of the table in style.

TNS trio get a Wales call

THREE TNS Academy players have been called up to the Welsh Under-19s Academy squad for a training camp that will be staged in Newport.

Taylor James, Ryan Pryce and Adam Davies have all been called up to the training camp that will take place this weekend.

All three players are part of Steve Evans' successful TNS under-19s squad that are currently riding high at the top of the Welsh Premier under-19 Youth League.

Rhyn's win as Benyon blasts goal from range

STEVE Benyon's long range effort helped Weston Rhyn keep their flag flying in the Mercian Regional League premier division cup with a 3-2 first round win over Prees at Vicarage Lane.

In their first action of the new year, Rhyn could take plenty of heart from their display in an entertaining first round tie that could have gone either way.

Danny Owen clipped the upright with an angled strike from the left early on, while George Turner also went close, before Prees got their noses in front.

However, the home side hit back with two goals just before half-time, Turner levelling before Matthew Evans broke through before firing into the bottom corner.

There was little between the sides after the break with the visitors levelling, but Rhyn had the last word when Benyon deceived the keeper with a strike from the left that flew into the top corner from 30 yards.

Buoyed by the win, Rhyn will now be looking to climb the premier division table in the second half of the season with their first league action at home to Wellington Amateur reserves on Saturday.

Rain has the last word as matches off

HEAVY rain disrupted the first fixtures of 2014 in the Mercian Regional League with clubs throughout the area left kicking their heels due to waterlogged pitches.

Among the casualties were FC Oswestry Town who were forced to put their title push on hold in division one as their clash at Cleve Hill was called off with the south Shropshire ground saturated by torrential rain.

It means Nick Maguire's side remain joint top of the table with Bishop's Castle who lead the way courtesy of a superior goal difference.

Town will be confident of getting back to action on Saturday when they host Wrockwardine Wood on the artificial surface at the Venue Park Hall (2pm).

OSWESTRY VILLA are due to entertain Meole Brace on Saturday while Villa's reserves travel to Market Drayton Tigers in the division two cup.

PLACINGS

Mercian Regional Football League									
PREMIER DIVISION									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
Oakenfold Ath	14	8	3	3	19	27			
FC Hudders	17	8	3	6	-1	27			
Whitchurch Alport	17	6	4	7	25				
Ketley Bank Utd	15	7	4	4	0	25			
Morda Utd	15	3	5	14	24				
Telford Juniors	14	7	3	4	11	24			
Shifnal United 97	15	6	4	5	6	22			
Wellington Area R	15	6	4	5	6	22			
Church Stretton	15	6	3	6	2	21			
Ketley Town	14	6	2	6	-5	20			
Madley Sports	16	6	2	8	30				
Prees	15	6	1	8	-5	19			
Weston Rhyn	16	5	3	8	-10	18			
Alcott	17	3	6	8	-1	15			
AFC B'north Res	17	2	6	9	-18	12			
DIVISION 2									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
Bishops Castle T	16	13	0	3	51	39			
Oswestry Town	16	12	3	1	46	38			
Chids Ercall	14	11	0	1	61	33			
Dawley Town	17	9	3	5	16	30			
Cross Keys	16	6	2	8	32	29			
Hanwood Utd Res	16	9	2	5	32	29			
Wroxeter Rovers	11	8	3	0	36	27			
Clee Hill United	14	7	5	2	16	36			
Oakenfold Rgrs	18	6	3	9	-16	21			
Oswestry Villa	16	6	2	8	2	20			
Brownhills	16	6	2	8	2	20			
Wrock Wood Jrs	19	4	2	13	-45	14			
Meole Brace	14	4	1	9	-43	13			
Shrewsbury United	19	3	1	15	-32	10			
Shawbury Utd Res	17	2	2	13	-61	8			
Hopetown United	17	2	1	12	-48	5			
DIVISION 3									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
AFC Brinsford	18	12	2	4	47				
Wrock Wood	18	12	2	5	41				
AFC Wellington	17	12	4	1	40	37			
Coningshall	18	11	3	4	36				
Impact United	16	11	3	2	38				
Market Drayton T	17	9	1	7	32	28			
Claverley	18	9	2	7	36	27			
Ludlow T Colts	18	7	2	9	25	23			
Altrington Juniors	16	6	1	9	-12	19			
Oswestry Villa R	17	4	2	11	-30	14			
Spaigat Britannia	18	4	2	12	-64	4			
Highly Miners W	17	3	1	11	-22	12			
Shrewsbury Utd R	16	2	0	14	-77	6			
Denso	18	0	1	17	-175	1			

SPORT

Remarkable recovery as Malpas hit super seven

MALPAS staged a remarkable fightback to come from 2-0 down after just five minutes to sweep aside Athleticco Market 7-2 and keep up their challenge for the Roche North Shropshire Sunday League title.

Market's leading scorer Karl Bailey opened the scoring inside the first minute and added a second five minutes later.

But Market then collapsed in dramatic fashion, with Callum Parry reducing the arrears with a 20-yard free-kick that gave Paul Foster no chance in goal.

Andy Morris equalised early in the second period, James Huxley then put Malpas 3-2 up before the league's leading scorer Lee Parry made it four from the spot.

Morris grabbed his second to make it 5-2 and Parry scored twice late on to complete his hat-trick and take his league tally to 21 goals and keep his side in second spot in the league behind Cross Foxes.

The game between Dudleston Heath and The Keys was called off due to a waterlogged pitch, while The Oak and The Tavern also did not play due to Tavern failing to field a team.

Fixtures for January 12: Lodge Inn v Cross Foxes, Dudleston Heath v Tavern, The Keys v Oak Inn, **Cheshire Sunday Cup:** Spital Vauls v Malpas.

Morda left sidelined by the weather

MORDA United's return to action after the Christmas break was thwarted last weekend with a waterlogged pitch forcing an early postponement of their Merion Regional League premier division cup tie at home to AFC Bridgnorth Reserves.

With no scheduled game next Saturday, unless their cup tie is rearranged, Morda will have to wait until Saturday, January 18 for their next action when they entertain Allscott in a league fixture.

United go into the new year well poised for an assault on the Merion Regional League premier division title.

They currently lie in fifth place but have games in hand over two of the teams above them and are just three points behind leaders Oakengates Athletic.

PLACINGS

Welsphool & District Darts League

DIVISION 1									
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts			
Talbot A	7	6	1	39	10	38			
Social Club	7	6	1	38	11	38			
Westwood	7	6	1	32	17	32			
The Quays	7	4	3	22	27	22			
Raven A	7	2	5	21	26	21			
Talbot B	7	2	5	17	32	17			
The Quays	7	2	5	16	33	16			
Key Head	7	2	5	11	38	11			
DIVISION 2									
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts			
Raven B	6	6	0	32	10	32			
Castle 26ers	6	4	2	25	17	25			
Pheasant	6	5	1	24	18	24			
Powis Arms	6	3	3	22	20	22			
Cock	6	3	3	20	22	20			
The Goat	6	2	4	19	23	19			
Wetly	5	1	4	16	19	16			
Castle A	2	5	16	33	16				
Crown Monty	6	1	5	15	27	15			

GOLF RETURNS

OSWESTRY

Sunday Morning Draw For Partners Four Ball Better Ball Medal (15 Holes): 1 Robin Rees & Chris Dunbar 53; 2 Ian Pearce (Captain) & Ian Bowe 53; 3 Richard Cowley & Oliver Wheeler 54; 4 John Bate & Simon Roberts 55; 5 Paul Pattenden & Neil Wilson 55; 6 Frank Mettram & Martin Jones 56. **Rules Question Winner:** Chris Dunbar.

Christmas Informal Four Ball Stableford: 1 D John Evans & Graham Sayers 44pts; 2 Martin Jones & Simon Pound 43pts; 3 Paul Taylor & Rob Webb 43pts; 4 Mick Willets & Alec Richardson 42pts.

Boys Day Cup Individual Stableford (10 Holes): 1 Neil Wilson 23pts; 2 Paul Huxley 23pts; 3 Mike Carter 22pts; 4 Peter Turner 22pts; 5 Simon Roberts 21pts; 6 Darryl Hopton 20pts.

* Countback



Up and away – COBRA and Bethesda compete in the line-out and (right) COBRA's No8 Jack Jukes makes a break for the line during the 21-15 win. Pictures: Lynne Owen.



Eagles find cure for travel sickness with away victory

RUGBY

by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY's rugby players launched the New Year on a high after sealing a 47-15 victory at lowly Dukinfield – their first away win of the season in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

The Eagles made a flying start with a terrific team try involving Tom Treasure, Gaz Hughes, Olly Wilford and Nick Clay before Nick Howland passed to Clay for a fine score, converted well by Dan Williams.

Buoyed by the early touchdown, Oswestry continued to show their attacking prowess from the kick-off, with the forwards giving Clay more quick ball, and the backs showed superb handling as Jack Fox managed to find space between three defenders to outpace the full-back for a superb try, again converted by Williams.

Once again, from the kick-off, the Eagles attacked, with some more slick handling by the backs releasing Howland this time, who showed pace to beat his man and round the full-back, with Williams converting the difficult kick.

Tight exchanges between the sides followed, with Dukinfield finally getting deep into the Eagles half. They looked certain to score with a three man overlap, but Fox showed great vision to pluck a long pass from the air and race 90 metres to score under the posts, converted by Williams.

Converted

The Eagles pressured from the kick-off, but this time Dukinfield stole the ball and went deep into the Oswestry half, with their winger bursting through tackles to score in the last play of the half, with the conversion missed.

Tough words by captain Andy Smith, coupled by some tactical changes by coach Gaz Barrett saw the Eagles look to attack again in the second half, with Dave Richardson plucking the ball from under the nose of the home centre and outpace the covering defence to score his first ever first team try for Oswestry which was converted once more by Williams.

Dukinfield came back strongly, and, after some tough exchanges with tempers fraying, managed to cross for another unconverted try, despite great tackling by Treasure and Luca Owen-Youens.

Oswestry began to show what they are capable of from the kick-off, with man of the match Tom Keaveney leading with some superb ball scrumming in the rucks. This allowed the Eagles to get up the field, and fine hands by Jamie Luckett saw him put Treasure in for a super try, though this time the conversion was missed. Great tackling by Mike Davies and Mike Keaveney kept Dukinfield on the back foot, and Smith showing great ball carrying ability.

Williams then found touch with a great kick to give Oswestry a line-out deep in the home side's half, and they made it count with a great maul which stopped just short of the tryline.

However, Fox took the ball quickly from the back and used his bulk to power through three defenders to score his third try. Williams kept up his impressive kicking form to add the extras.

Although Dukinfield responded with a third touchdown from a quick penalty, Oswestry were worthy winners as they look to continue their impressive home record against Port Sunlight at Granville Park on Saturday.

OSWESTRY II slipped below mid-table in the North West League division four (south) when they were edged out 24-20 at home to Linley II.

It's Maesydre magic as Welshpool go try-crazy



Welshpool scrum-half Andrew Thomas looks to get his side on the attack in the Maesydre win. Pics: Ian Francis.



On the run – Welshpool Full back Phil Saunders making a break during the crushing 62-0 win over Holyhead

WELSHPOOL's rugby players made a storming start to the year as they ran in 10 tries in a 62-0 hammering of Holyhead to boost their prospects for the second half of the season in the Swalec League division three (north).

Looking to climb clear of the lower reaches of the table, the Maesydre men proved too much for their struggling

visitors from Anglesey as they held the upper hand in atrocious sodden conditions. They never looked back after leading 22-0 at half-time, before the floodgates opened in the second half although Holyhead, despite their basement plight, continued to show plenty of spirit throughout.

Scrum-half Andrew Thomas and full-

back Phil Saunders both went over twice, while there were also tries for centre Tom Davies, winger Richmond Amalie, outside centre Martin Gould, flanker Tom Worthy and second row Gareth Gregory.

Fly-half Dylan Walton also touched down, while kicking six conversions for a 16-point haul.

Seven-kick Williams is penalty king for COBRA

COBRA opened the New Year with a precious 21-15 home verdict against Bethesda to ease their basement concerns in rugby's Swalec League division one (north).

Seven penalties from fly-half Llew Williams proved key as the Meifod side clawed their way back from a 15-3 deficit in the first half to record a battling victory.

Heavy rain forced the match to be switched to the club's third team pitch, and COBRA were soon up against it in the forward exchanges.

The hosts were hampered by the fact they had to field two loose head props in the front row for the first 20 minutes before the arrival of tight head Andy Evans gave his side a stronger platform.

The sides had shared early penalties, with Williams on target on a rare appearance for the Llanfair Caereinion side, while the return of scrum-half Alwyn Williams after a hand injury also boosted the cause along with Lloyd Mayer.

But third placed Bethesda took advantage as they dominated the scrums early on to open up a 15-3 lead with two tries following turnover balls, before a couple of Llew Williams penalties reduced the arrears to 15-9 at the break.

The hosts kept chipping away in the second half, and stepped up the pressure which led to Bethesda continually conceding penalties for killing the ball.

Williams maintained his impressive form with the boot, punishing the visitors with four more penalties to seal a crucial 21-15 victory for third bottom COBRA.

PLACINGS

English Clubs Championships

SOUTH LANCs/CHESHIRE 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Medics	16	15	0	1	14	74	
L'pool Collegiate	16	14	0	2	12	68	
Bowdon	16	14	0	2	11	67	
Ormskirk	15	12	1	2	8	58	
Vagabonds	16	9	0	7	8	44	
Southport	16	10	0	6	6	41	
Oswestry	16	7	1	8	8	38	
Port Sunlight	16	6	1	9	8	34	
Moore	16	5	1	10	8	30	
Orrell	16	5	0	11	7	27	
Marple	16	5	0	11	5	25	
Dukinfield	16	3	2	11	4	20	
Ramsay	16	3	0	13	4	14	
Wallasey	15	0	0	15	2	8	

Swalec League

DIVISION 1 NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bala RFC	9	7	0	2	53	31	
Pwllheli RFC	9	6	0	3	15	31	
Bethesda RFC	10	6	0	4	55	30	
Ruthin RFC	11	6	0	5	46	30	
Caeernarfon RFC	8	6	0	2	50	28	
Denbigh (Dimbich)	10	5	0	5	46	25	
Nant Conwy RFC	10	5	0	5	5	25	
COBRA	10	3	0	7	120	15	
Dolgellau RFC	10	2	0	7	55	13	
Bro Ffestiniog RFC	10	1	0	9	115	12	

DIVISION 3 NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Harlech RFC	9	8	0	1	230	41	
Menai Bridge RFC	8	7	0	1	172	32	
Llanidloes RFC	8	6	0	2	156	27	
Rhoslanerchrugog	9	5	0	4	67	26	
Llangollen RFC	9	5	0	4	45	25	
Bangor RFC	7	5	0	2	44	23	
Fint RFC	7	3	0	5	32	20	
Bangor University	6	4	0	2	11	19	
Berlles RFC	8	2	0	6	105	16	
Welshpool RFC	8	2	0	6	85	9	
Holyhead RFC	9	1	0	8	384	6	
Portmadog	5	0	0	5	133	1	

Oswestry Juniors' trio secure England awards

THREE coaches from Oswestry Junior Netball Club have "netted" their England Netball UKOC Level 2 Coaching awards, writes **JOHN BRIDGWATER.**

Hollie Dixon, Georgia Roberts and Katy Yates all started their netball careers with Oswestry Juniors at an early age.

Georgia was younger than most as she joined in the training sessions given by her mum Sian Roberts who founded the club with her friend and fellow coach Jo Jones 12 years ago.

After going away to university, where they continued their netball careers, Hollie, Georgia and Katy have now returned to the club and are putting back into netball by

delivering training sessions, helping Sian, a coach for over 20 years, whose coaching time is now restricted.

Gaining its CAPS Bronze award back in 2009, the club has grown and now has over 50 young players aged between 11 and 16, an under-19 team in the Oswestry & District Adult League and an U11 side.

This season the club is fielding an U19, two U14 and two U16 teams in the Shropshire Junior Netball League.

The netball season runs from September to March/April with matches approximately every month and training during term-time on Saturday mornings at Oswestry Leisure Centre.



Oswestry's Level 2 coaches (from left) Hollie Dixon, Georgia Roberts and Katy Yates

SPORT

Football
Youth wins day
in festive match
Page 62



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Welshpool handed a derby trip to Llanfair

WELSHPOOL Town will face a derby at Llanfair United in the fourth round of the Central Wales Cup – if they can overcome Llandysul in this Saturday's delayed third round tie.

The Lilywhites were due to visit Ceredigion outfit Llandysul last weekend, but the tie was put back seven days due to a waterlogged pitch.

Elsewhere, Berriew, who are safely through after their 5-2 home passage against Tywyn Brynrcrug, will entertain either Cardigan Town or Dyffryn Banw.

Carno, 4-3 conquerors of Waterloo Rovers, face a trip to Caersws while Guilsfield or Machynlleth – who are due to meet on January 22 – will welcome Rhosgoch should they progress.

Central Wales Cup round four draw: Berriew v Cardigan Town or Dyffryn Banw, Buith Wells or Penparcau v Knighton Town, Caersws v Carno, Guilsfield or Machynlleth v Rhosgoch, Llanfair United v Llandysul or Welshpool Town, Llandudoch Town or Abermule v Penrhyncoch, Llanrhaeadr or Montgomery Town v Abergystwyth University or Hay St Marys, Prestegne or Llandrindod Wells v Rhyadear Town or Aberaeron. Ties Saturday, February 8.

Saints look to weather for a break

THE New Saints will be hoping it's third time lucky when they head to Carmarthen next Tuesday after the encounter has already been postponed twice due to a waterlogged pitch.

If the West Wales side's Richmond Park pitch unfit following recent heavy rain, the match is likely to be switched to Llanelli's Stebonheath Park.

TNS will also travel down to Carmarthen in the fourth round of the FAW Welsh Cup on Saturday, February 1 (5.15pm), the match being televised by S4C.

■ GAP Connah's Quay teenager Ryan Edwards, meanwhile, has signed a full-time professional contract with the Saints.

The 19-year-old Nomads' academy product made his mark after breaking into the first team ranks last season.

Hughes top

CHRIS Hughes has been named the Welsh Premier's manager of the month for December just weeks after taking over from Bernard McNally at Newtown. The Robins enjoyed victories against Carmarthen, Rhyl and The New Saints.



Try time – Welshpool second row Gareth Gregory touches down in the crushing 62-0 win over Holyhead

Good start to new year for local rugby clubs

OSWESTRY's rugby players got the year off to a flying start as they stormed to a 47-15 victory at lowly Dukinfield – their first away win of the season in the South Lincs and Cheshire Two.

Now up to seventh in the table following their seven try romp, the Eagles will be out to maintain that form when they host Port Sunlight on Saturday, the Merseyside team just below them in the table.

It was also a good weekend across the border with COBRA and Welshpool both recording wins in the Swalec Welsh League.

COBRA secured a fine 21-15 success over Bethesda to ease their basement fears in division one (north) with fly-half Llew Williams kicking seven conversions in the Meifod club's first win since October.

Meanwhile, WELSHPOOL ran in 10 tries as they hammered Holyhead 62-0 in division three (north) to boost their prospects of climbing clear of the lower reaches of the table.

■ Reports see page 63

Waterloo aiming to beat cup hangover

STUNG by an early exit in the Central Wales Cup, Waterloo Rovers will be aiming to bounce back when they visit Berriew in the Spar Mid Wales League division one on Saturday (2.30), writes **JOHN BRIDGWATER**.

The Welshpool side suffered a disappointing 4-3 home exit to Carno in the third round of the cup last weekend despite having led 3-2 in a rain drenched second half.

Boss Dale Roberts felt his side were a casualty of the atrocious conditions following a heavy downpour in the second half, but also blamed their inability to kill off their rivals with a couple of good opportunities going to waste.

He will now be anxious to shake off that Central Wales Cup defeat as Rovers bid to cement their top three position in Saturday's big game. Berriew, by contrast, had no problems in the cup, progressing to the fourth round with a 5-2 home success against Tywyn Brynrcrug.

Currently lying third, Rovers are three points ahead of Saturday's hosts who have four games in hand.

Rampant

High flying Llandrindod Wells have emerged clear title favourites after winning all 14 league games, while Llanfair United appear the only realistic challengers in second spot.

The top two clubs now come face to face on Saturday with Rhys Stephens' Llanfair side putting their title credentials on the line when they head to the rampant Wellmen (2.30).

They can go into the clash in good heart after success in the league and Welsh Cup this season, but will have to be at their best against the league leaders who have swept all before them this season.

Elsewhere, Four Crosses host Llansantffraid Village, two sides looking to bounce back from last week's Central Wales Cup exits, while Montgomery are at home to Tywyn Brynrcrug. Both games kick off at 2pm.

by John Bridgwater

HEAD coach Carl Darlington believes The New Saints have shown they can handle the pressure after putting their Welsh Premier title quest back on track with two crucial wins.

Having surrendered pole position on Boxing Day, the Saints hit back with a 5-1 hammering of Newtown on New Year's Day followed by last Saturday's 2-1 success at Bangor to move four points clear at the top.

Darlington was delighted with the response which put paid to talk of a mid-season wobble after the full-timers picked up just one point from their previous two outings.

"When everyone says you're favourites to win the league, if you lose or even draw, it becomes a crisis, so it's something we have to handle," he said.

"Everyone wants to beat you every game, but the players have learned to understand that type of pressure, which they wouldn't have at other clubs where expectations are not so high.

"We had a couple of disappointing results, we have no right to win every game, but the key is how you respond to setbacks and we have shown a lot of character in the last two games.

Freshen up

"Against Newtown we played some fantastic football, and fully deserved that scoreline.

"Bangor are on a good run, we knew it would be difficult, so it was a big win for us.

After the back-to-back wins, Darlington and director of football Craig Harrison gave the players three days off this week as they are without any action on Saturday.

The league leaders return to duty with a trip to Carmarthen Town next Tuesday night while the following Saturday they host Airbus UK in a crucial top-of-the-table showdown in the last match before the league split.

"It's been a long, hard slog for us, the players have been in since June so it gives us a chance to freshen up," added Darlington. "The break has come at a good time as it will allow some of our injuries to clear up."

Striker Mike Wilde missed the Bangor win after rolling his ankle against Newtown, but should be back to fitness for next week.

■ It's a big day for TNS ladies who host Stoke City Ladies in the second round proper of the FA Womens Cup at Park Hall on Sunday (1pm).

Oswestry's new captains drive into office



All smiles – Oswestry's Golf Club captain for 2014 gets ready to drive into office at the club. Ian Pearce, a member of the Oswestry club for 34 years, play off a handicap of 10 and has been chairman of the Greens Committee for past three years. Seniors captain Stan Challener (left), Ladies captain Anne Colquhoun and Junior captain (right) Toby Jones were there to watch Ian drive off along with a big turnout of members. Picture: Ken Done.

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Representative APR	£ 289.76
The credit and the charge for credit is repayable by 59 monthly payments of 1 final payment of	£ 7,934.80
Total amount payable	60 months
Duration of the agreement	

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